

MADE IN U.S.A

DECEMBER 31, 1917

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

Dear Sir:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fermenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white man's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting woman, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

PRINCIPAL

Esbeck

Fidelity Union Skin

MADE IN U.S.A



Assaults without Lynching

# NEGRO IS IN JAIL ON GRAVE CHARGE

James Rand Charged With Assault On Mrs. Nettie Nolen

of Raleigh  
ARRESTED BY POLICE

Alleged That Negro Made Insulting Remarks To Her. Went To Her Home On North Salisbury Street; Husband at Work in Lumber Plant About Block Distant

Arrested Tuesday upon the complaint of Mrs. Nettie Nolen, who lives in the 600 block on North Salisbury street, James Bland, a negro employed at the Baker-Thompson Lumber Company, is in the city jail charged with an assault on Mrs. Nolen by making insulting remarks to her while she was alone at home.

According to the account told Chief Barbour and Solicitor Briggs by Mrs. Nolen and her husband, T. M. Nolen, the negro went to the home Tuesday morning just before noon to carry some fire wood from the lumber plant. Nolen also works at the Baker-Thompson plant. When the negro reached the home Mrs. Nolen was in the kitchen preparing dinner. Rand deposited the kindling on the floor and then addressed Mrs. Nolen with his insulting remarks, which included a fiendish proposal. Repulsed by Mrs. Nolen, who ran from the house to the home of a neighbor, the negro left after making threatening remarks and telling her not to mention what he had said.

When the husband arrived at home for dinner after the noon hour, Mrs. Nolen related to him everything that transpired during the negro's visit and the remarks Rand made to her. He then reported the affair to the police and Officer Crabtree arrested Rand several hours afterwards while the negro was at work at the lumber plant.

From what could be learned from the police, Rand had made several trips to homes of Nolen and other employees in the neighborhood and was aware that Mr. Nolen was at work about a block away. After his arrest, Rand denied to police that he directed any insulting remarks towards Mrs. Nolen.

## After Taking a Negro From Sheriff's Posse, Mob Declines to Lynch

Gainesville, Fla., Oct. 3.—Early today Sheriff Ramsey and a posse captured Virgil Ross, a negro, wanted for the murder of Policeman Newberry, at Alachua. About noon the sheriff and his men reached here and reported that when about six miles from Gainesville a mob had overpowered them and taken the negro away.

About two hours after the sheriff reached here some men rode up to the county jail with the negro and delivered him, unharmed, to the jailer. They made no explanation of their act except to state they had first taken the black to Alachua and that he had made complete confession of the shooting of the officer.

# NEGRO ASSAULTS MUTILATES AND MURDERS GIRL

A most revolting crime was uncovered Monday morning when the body of a little seven-year-old girl, Pearl Irene Newbold, was found in an ash pit in the rear of 109 N. 14th St. The police soon arrested Walter Diggs, who lives at that number. Diggs made a confession, stating that the little girl met him Sunday afternoon about 3 o'clock and asked him to buy her some ice cream. He did so and took her to his room. About 7 o'clock she became sleepy and asked to lie down on his bed. He says he lay down with her and afterwards assaulted her, doing so repeatedly, and mutilated her with his pen knife. He stated that late in the night he found she was dead, so he took her body and placed it in the ash pit.

The body was in a horrible condition when discovered and showed signs being choked and bitten.

Sometime after making the confession, Diggs implicated another man by the name of Isaac Nichols, living at 13th and Poplar. Nichols was arrested but denies being with Diggs and several witnesses corroborate his statements. It is known, however, that the two men have been associated in several petty larceny offenses. Diggs

shows no concern for his crime. His manner indicates a low, depraved, beastly nature, devoid of human instinct. The entire community demands he pay the extreme penalty of the law.

## NEGROES OFFER AID IN CATCHING WOMAN'S ASSAILANT IN OHIO

Advertiser Bureau  
Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 5

Heischel Hatler, the negro who is accused of having attempted to assault Mrs. Nathan McCoy, Jr., wife of the first assistant county treasurer, still is at large.

Members of the Ohio States Federation of Colored Citizens have tendered the McCoy family their sympathies and aid "in catching the brute." "We hope he will be caught and given the full extent of the law," reads their expression.

**Printers Stay out of Parade**  
It became known today that the Typographical Union and the Pressmen's Union stayed out of the Labor Day parade by design. It is said the reason was to show their disapproval of the action of the Brewery Workers' Union in carrying banners advocating the cause of the "wets."

**Internal Revenue Increases**  
Internal revenues of the Columbus district, B. E. Williamson, collector, increased during the last year from \$2,293,000 to \$3,391,000. The increase in the corporation income tax in Ohio during the year from \$3,600,000 to \$12,800,000 and the personal income tax from \$2,400,000 to \$3,900,000.

The Columbus Police Department will have a new squadron of auto-ists, Col. G. H. Donovan has announced.

Westerville, near here, has named Ralph W. Ortlough, aged 35, New York machine engineer, as village manager. He formerly lived in Columbus.

Dr. A. W. Freeman, Cincinnati, federal health expert, has been appointed state health commissioner. He begins duties about Oct. 1.

Plans for the new 100,000 colored Y. M. C. A. have been approved and building operations are to begin within a month.

Fire believed to be of incendiary origin caused a \$5,000 loss to the plants of the Columbus Bottle Supply and West Side Iron and Metal Companies at State and Center Streets.

## COLORED MAN FORFEITS BAIL BOND OF \$1500

When James Smothers, aged 40, colored janitor of an uptown apartment house, failed to appear at the May's Landing Court House yesterday morning for trial for a statutory offense committed with Alberta Curd, aged 14, his \$1,500 bond was declared forfeited. His brother, William Smothers, a hod carrier, was his bondsman. He could give no explanation of his brother's absence, but declared he would search for him and have him delivered over to the court to save paying the bond. The defendant is charged with having locked the girl in a room and kept



# Body Hung to a Tree and Riddled With Bullets

Chicago Defender 3 10-13

BY MISS WILLE BROWN

Sent From New Orleans to Get the True Story of the Lynching for the Chicago Defender

Hammond, La., March 9.—Placing this town on the map alongside the hated state of Georgia, and ridiculing all the pleas of the Redmonds, the Stouts and other members of the Race who say that the south has always treated the members of the Race with care, a mob of men took a demented woman from the sheriff's machine and hung her to a tree, riddling her body with bullets. Nowhere in this civilized globe, not even in the wilds of Africa nor with the very heathens, can there be found men who take the law into their own hands and proceed to mete out justice without the least semblance of a trial.

Press Dispatches Fail to Tell All. All the press dispatches from this city have failed to mention that the woman was not of sound mind, yet here in these United States a mob of heathens, who call themselves men, took a poor woman and treated her as we have related. Would there be more Abbotts and more Du Bois's who dare to tell the real truths to the world. In my own city it was the Chicago Defender that woke up the fact that our women were being worked on the streets in New Orleans and it was the great organization of the National Association of Colored People who are fighting with all their energy to get money enough to carry the fight to the courts should their protest to the mayor fail.

The sheriff in charge of the woman is alleged to have been in with the mob for taking her after she had been shot and bound he left her alone, unguarded, till he went inside of his home to "change his shirt."

Fine alibi—out of sight, where he could testify to the courts that he did not see the members of the mob, who were made up of dagoes, farmers, merchants, church people and junk dealers.

Woman's Mind Affected

Some time ago Mrs. Emma Hooper underwent an operation, and it so seriously affected her mind that she never went to see anyone and never allowed anyone to come and see her. The officers never paid her any mind, as she was known to them as a "crazy woman." Her neighbor's boy had been killing her chickens for some time, and to make things worse, had been throwing them back into her yard after doing so. She warned him and he kept up his trouble and she shot at him. He was wounded in the leg. A warrant was sworn out against Mrs. Hooper. When the officer went to get her, she knowing she had a poor chance in the courts, told him not to come in. He did so, and she fired at him twice. A mob returned with him, composed of the class of which I have already mentioned.

The Mob Rule

Seeing the mob, she shot at them sixteen times. Bud Ford (white), one of the officers, shot the woman through the head. Another officer, called "Cat" Gray, climbed through the window and beat Mrs. Hooper unmercifully. All this time the mob was gathering. No one tried to disperse them. Deputy Sheriff Wainwright put the wounded woman in the car and started for his home, followed by the mob. He then stopped in front of his home "to change his shirt" and the mob dragged her a mile from town, hung her to a tree and riddled her body full of bullets.

The lynching added to other cruelties heaped upon the Race, has started a general exodus northward, where "freedom reigns." The south is NOT THE BEST PLACE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

## AGED MAN IS BURNED TO DEATH BY WHITES

It Happened in the South and of Course Nothing Has Been Done

Morganfield, Ky., March 30.—On March 21st Leonard Gilchrist went plodding along a lonely country road when he was forced by some poor white people to enter a lonely house which was unoccupied. The man and, finding little money, they set fire to the cottage, burning him to death. They held guns on him to keep him from escaping. He was a law-abiding citizen of that town and leaves a wife and three little children, the youngest of which is barely a year old, the oldest 7. Nothing has been done to try to find out the perpetrators of the crime. Nothing will. This is in the south. The only way to do is to leave. Thousands will leave this very section of the country on account of this damnable crime.

## GIRL KILLED BY AUTO, LYNCH NEGRO DRIVER

Houston, Texas, June 23.—Ben Harper, a negro, charged with being the driver of an automobile which ran down and killed Ollie May Goodrum, a twelve-year-old girl, Thursday, was hanged by a mob at the scene of the girl's death, near Courtney, Texas, yesterday. Seven other negroes are being held in connection with the girl's death. They were celebrating Emancipation day.

## MOB BURNS CONFESSED SLAYER OF WHITE GIRL

Admission

Not a Shot Fired While Negro Is Put to

Death 5-23-17

MOTHER OF VICTIM FAVORS EXECUTION

Women and Children in Crowd to Watch Grisly Scene

(Associated Press.)

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 22.—Ell Persons, negro, confessed murderer of Antoinette Raphael, several weeks ago, was burned to death near the scene of the crime at 9 o'clock today.

A mob estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 witnessed the death of the negro.

Body Oil-soaked.

In preparation for burning, the body was soaked in oil and afterward suspended in midair from the limb of a nearby tree. A torch was then applied and the body burned fiercely until the scorched flesh of the negro fell to the ground.

Persons is said to have repeated his confession that he killed the child and implicated two other negroes. Members of the mob immediately set out in pursuit of these.

Mother Wished Torture.

When all was in readiness Mrs. Minnie Woods, mother of the dead girl, was taken to the bridge where the prisoner was held and identified him. In a short talk to the mob, she declared she wished Persons to suffer the tortures he dealt to his victim.

Not a shot was fired, the mob working quietly and apparently under able leadership.

Women, Children in Mob.

News that the negro had been brought into the county reached the city early this morning and by 8 o'clock all roads leading to the Macon road bridge were choked with automobiles. An hour later it was impossible to approach by car or wagon to within a half mile of the scene. Hundreds of spectators, including many

women and children, tramped through muddy fields to get a view of the funeral pyre.

Persons was taken in charge by the mob at Potts Camp, Miss., and brought through the country to this county. Throughout the night hundreds of automobiles patrolled the roads leading to the state line, to see that no organized effort was made to intercept the party holding the negro.

Great Throng On Hand.

The condition of the roads after a heavy rain in the night made progress slow and by the time they reached the bridge a great throng from Memphis and all points in the county, as well as from nearby counties was on hand.

There was no disorder and little excitement, the mob was well organized and worked with quiet precision. After the lynching of Persons the majority of those present dispersed, the rumor prevailing that the negroes implicated by Persons would not be lynched if they were captured.

Galveston Lynching

Is Laid Bare

Special to The Observer.

Galveston, Texas, June 28, 1917

The Negro, Chester Sawyer, early in the month of April, this year, was arrested, after a white woman, the wife of a dairy-man down the island, had been reported to have been assaulted and robbed of \$10. He was arrested after a piece of apron found near the scene of the crime fit the torn piece of an apron found in the house where this Negro was supposed to have been staying.

Excitement ran high when the woman finally identified the Negro as being the one that assaulted her. An attempt was made by her husband, while the Negro was there, to kill him. The officers after the grand jury returned an indictment, charging this Negro with this crime, fearing something might happen, carried the Negro to Houston for safe-keeping, where he stayed until about three weeks ago, when he was returned to the Galveston jail. His trial was to have been called Monday morning, June 25th.

The above facts are given you that you may understand the cause for the lynching. Now there was no mob of 200 men, the jail was not broken in, no alarm was made. People living next door to the jail did not even hear the men. There were only two white men and the Negro used as the supposed decoy in the car that came to the jail. There was no resistance on the part of the two jailers who were on duty. The story about the men being masked is untrue. The light, which is a large one, hangs directly over the door and when lighted a person can be seen one block each way, and the jailer, who is well known here knew that these men were bringing a prisoner to jail. The truth of the dirty deed is that it was

ing less than a quiet delivery of the about 15 or 20 men, carried the Negro him out to the auto, and joined by probably three other cars carrying about 15 or 20 men, carried the Negro down the island where they butchered his body with knives, hanged him and riddled the dead body with bullets.

From the way the Negro was cut up, he was dead when the men strung him up, because considering the distance the body was hanging from the ground, they could not have stabbed him and so butchered his body after hanging him.

The current opinion is that the jailer was aware of the affair and was one of the party to this extent. The Negro was not in the iron house where they keep prisoners of this kind, and too, the men knew the number of the cell, one having told the jailer he was in No. 5 cell. Another reason that there is strong sentiment that the jailer was a party to the pre-arranged affair is, he states himself, that he asked one of the men what they wanted and one said, "You know what I want."

Unrest among the white people is at the high-water mark, with the Negroes keeping silent. There is an under current that something serious may happen if the least thing is done. All ammunition shops have been given orders not to sell Negroes guns or ammunition. The whites are showing extraordinary good treatment to the Negroes.

We had a mass meeting Monday night and drew up resolutions condemning the lynching in no uncertain terms, 500 Negro men, besides women and children were in attendance. In our speeches we told the officers present (and there were more than a dozen, including the chief of police) that we demanded a relentless investigation of the lynching to the end that the guilty parties may be brought to justice. We further told them that from to-night on, if they (the officials) could not guarantee members of our race protection, when they were indicted or not, we would protect ourselves to the last drop of red blood.

## NEGRO IS BURNED AT SCENE OF CRIME

Ell Persons Confessed He Killed School Girl—Mother of Girl Urged Burning, But Refused to Apply the Match. 5-23-17

Memphis, Tenn., May 22.—Chained to a fallen tree at the scene of his crime, Ell Persons, the negro who confessed he killed Antoinette Raphael, a young girl, three weeks ago, was burned to death by a mob in the country about 10



from Memphis shortly after  
clock this morning. The body was  
badly mutilated, the head being sev-  
ered and placed on the roadside near-  
by, where it remained several hours.

#### Older Mother Urged Burning.

Mrs. Minnie Woods, mother of the  
dead girl, identified the negro and, in  
a short speech to the mob, urged them  
to burn the slayer of her child. The  
mother refused, however, to apply the  
match to the funeral pyre.

Before he met death, Persons was  
permitted to make a statement. He  
repeated his former confession that he  
chopped the child's head off, and im-  
plicated two other negroes in the crime,  
declaring one of them had struck the  
first blow, which stunned the girl.  
Not a shot was fired, the mob work-  
ing quietly and apparently under able  
leadership.

News that the negro had been  
brought into the county reached the  
city early this morning, and by 8  
o'clock all roads leading to the Macon  
road bridge were choked with auto-  
mobiles. An hour later it was impos-  
sible to approach by car or wagon to  
within a half mile of the scene. Hun-  
dreds of spectators, including many  
women and children, tramped through  
muddy fields to get a view of the  
funeral pyre.

#### Auto Patrol Roads.

Persons was taken in charge by the  
mob at Potts' Camp, Miss., and brought  
through the country to this county.  
Throughout the night hundreds of au-  
tomobiles patrolled the roads leading  
to the state line, to see that no orga-  
nized effort was made to intercept the  
party holding the negro. The condi-  
tion of the roads after a heavy rain in  
the night made progress slow, and by  
the time they reached the bridge a  
great throng from Memphis and all  
points in the county, as well as from  
nearby counties, was on hand.

There was no disorder and little ex-  
citement; the mob was well organized  
and worked with quiet precision.

Two negroes, implicated by Persons  
in his dying statement, were captured  
by a posse of citizens late today and  
subjected to a searching inquiry as  
to their movements on the day the  
child was murdered and beheaded. One  
was released and the other, a deaf  
mute, was ordered detained tempo-  
rarily, but it was stated that in all  
likelihood he also will be released,  
probably tomorrow. It was understood  
that reputable citizens vouched for the  
negroes and made statements tending  
to verify their assertions that they  
were not in the vicinity.

Hunter Wilson, county attorney gen-  
eral, announced tonight that a grand  
jury investigation of the lynching  
would be instituted at once. A cor-  
oner's jury, which held an inquest late  
today, returned a verdict that Persons  
came to his death "from causes un-  
known to the jury."

#### BOSTON SENDS

#### PROTEST TO WILSON.

Boston, May 22.—A telegram protest-  
ing against the lynching today of E.  
Persons, a negro, near Memphis, was  
sent to President Wilson by the ex-  
ecutive committee of the Boston branch  
of the National Equal Rights league to-  
night. Referring to a report that the  
mob intended to lynch two more negro  
suspects, the telegram said:

"We call upon you as the head of the  
federal government to make every ef-  
fort to stay this further blot on the  
civilization and humanity of this Chris-  
tian nation. Our laws forbid the burn-  
ing alive of rats in a trap. We implore  
you, while saying much for justice and  
humanity for foreign nations, to speak  
out for justice to 12,000,000 colored  
American citizens and to stop stirring  
of resentment. America is rivaling  
Germany and Turkey in barbaric atroc-  
ities. Will you do something?"

The telegram was signed by Allen W.  
Whaley, William D. Brigham and Wil-  
liam Monroe Trotter.

## NEGRO IS LYNCHED BY PARTIES UNKNOWN

BODY OF CHESTER SAWYER FOUND  
SWINGING TO SALOON SIGN AT  
FIRST STREET AND AVE. R.  
GALVESTON TEXAS NEWS  
JUNE 26, 1917

## GRAND JURY TO INVESTIGATE

Plan to Get Man From Jail Is Cleverly  
and Swiftly Executed by Crowd  
of Two Hundred Men.

Chester Sawyer, a negro charged with  
criminal assault on a young white mar-  
ried woman in the western part of the  
city limits on the morning of April 14  
was taken from the county jail early  
yesterday morning and lynched.

The body was found riddled with bul-  
lets and gashed with knives swinging to  
a saloon sign at Sixty-first street and  
Avenue R.

The negro was arrested the day fol-  
lowing an assault and robbery of the  
young woman about 5 o'clock in the  
morning, after her husband, a dairy man,  
had left the house to deliver milk. After  
the negro assaulted the woman he took  
\$10 from a dresser drawer. Feeling ran  
high for a time. Fearing an attempt  
would be made to lynch him, the negro  
was taken to Houston for safe keeping.  
He was brought back to Galveston about  
three weeks ago. His trial was to have  
started in the tenth district court yester-  
day morning.

Fearing further trouble, Sheriff Henry  
Thomas yesterday removed another ne-  
gro, Charles Monroe, convicted in con-  
nection with a criminal assault, and sent  
him to Houston.

#### Negroes Hold Mass Meeting.

Negroes held a big mass meeting last  
night at Cotton Jammers' Park. A big  
squad of police was ordered out to quell  
any signs of disturbance. The crowd was  
quiet.

Excitement prevailed last night in the  
neighborhood of the crime, which is popu-  
lated largely by dairy men. Guards  
were posted at various points. Nothing  
unusual happened.

Families of several men were sent to  
town for the night.

Judge Clay Stone Briggs of the tenth  
district court yesterday afternoon  
charged the grand jury to begin an in-  
vestigation of the lynching at once.

Access to the jail was gained with a  
clever ruse. Everything in connection  
with the lynching was well planned and  
thoroughly executed. There was no  
hitch. Half an hour after the jail door  
was opened the negro was swinging to  
a saloon sign.

Believing that an automobile which  
arrived at the jail entrance about 2:30  
o'clock was the police car with a pris-  
oner, Jailer Arthur F. Roach went to the  
door. Two men with their hands over  
their faces were approaching with a ne-  
gro boy heavily handcuffed between  
them.

#### Cover Jailers With Guns.

As soon as the door was partly ajar  
both men threw their weight against it  
and flung the jailer against the wall.  
One of them thrust a gun under his chin  
and told him to be quiet. The other man  
covered Assistant Jailer E. W. Bock and  
ordered him to the negro's cell. Together  
the men marched upstairs, where the  
jailers were forced to unlock the cell and  
bring the negro out. By this time the  
jail grounds were surrounded by a crowd  
estimated to be about 200 men. Only one  
automobile was seen—the one in which  
the two men arrived. The only outcry  
the negro made was "Oh my God!" when  
he saw the crowd of determined masked  
faces. As the party left the jail door  
several armed guards took their places  
at the door. One of them flourished a  
gun before the jailers' faces and told

them to stay inside.

Further evidence that the mob had its  
plans well laid was the fact that all tel-  
ephone wires leading to the jail had pre-  
viously been cut. Discovering that he  
could not get communication by tele-  
phone from the jail, Jailer Master I. M.  
Barb, who had been awakened by the  
crowd's departure, ran to a fire station  
and notified Sheriff Henry Thomas.

The crowd disappeared as quickly as  
it came. Several shots were fired short-  
ly after the departure, but attracted lit-  
tle attention. Officers followed the route  
which had been taken by the automo-  
biles. They discovered the body a few  
minutes after the negro was killed.  
There was no one in sight.

Justice of the Peace John Harris, who  
lives two blocks from the place where  
the negro was found by Chief of Police  
Robert Webber, held an inquest and ren-  
dered a verdict that Sawyer came to his  
death from gunshot wounds inflicted by  
unknown parties.

#### Neighborhood Heard Firing.

Persons living in the vicinity of the  
lynching said they heard shots fired.  
Some said they saw the flash of guns,  
but that they were unaware that any-  
thing unusual was happening.

The negro was brought to the under-  
taking establishment of F. P. Malloy &  
Son, where it was held until yesterday  
afternoon. A squad of police was sta-  
tioned in the vicinity of the building to  
disperse the crowds. The body was  
buried yesterday afternoon.

After recovering from the shock, the  
young woman identified Sawyer as the  
negro who assaulted her. A piece of a  
woman's apron found near the negro's  
room which fitted a torn garment left on  
the back porch of the house where Saw-  
yer worked was the first link in the  
chain of evidence against him. He was  
seen and spoken to in the vicinity of the  
crime by two other negroes on the morn-  
ing of the assault.

According to County Attorney Charles  
H. Theobald, Sawyer confessed the crime  
to another negro in the Harris County  
jail. Feeling ran high for several days  
after the crime, and Sawyer was taken to  
Houston for safe keeping. He was placed  
with another negro who had been sen-  
tenced to a term in the penitentiary. The  
latter was subsequently sent to one of  
the state farms in the vicinity of Rich-  
mond. He wrote Mr. Theobald that he  
had valuable information on the Sawyer  
case. Mr. Theobald went to the farm and  
got the negro's story as it had been told  
to him by Sawyer.

Sawyer came to Galveston from Brook-  
lyn about a year ago. He said he was  
born there.

The grand jury will begin an investi-  
gation of the lynching at once.

Judge Briggs was bitter in his denun-  
ciation of mob law. After addressing the  
jury he delivered an additional charge for  
starting an investigation, which, in part,  
follows:

"At some hour in the early morning of  
this day a negro by the name of Chester  
Sawyer, under indictment in this court  
with the offense of criminal assault, was  
forcibly removed from the county jail of  
this county by an armed mob, and killed,  
in defiance of the constitution and laws  
of this state.

"Every participant in that mob is sub-  
ject to indictment for the offense of mur-  
der, and I charge you that it is your duty  
to make the fullest and most sweeping  
investigation of this occurrence and to  
fearlessly and faithfully present by in-  
dictment each and every person that you  
may find, from such investigation, to be  
connected with the death of the said  
Chester Sawyer.

"If as a result of your investigation it  
should develop that there was a willful  
failure or criminal neglect on the part of  
any one charged with his safe-keeping to  
give the prisoner proper protection, it is  
your duty also to present indictment  
against any such persons, if any you find  
are subject to such a charge.

"You will, therefore, begin your inves-  
tigation at once and continuously pursue  
it until complete, and the persons whom  
you believe guilty of any connection with  
the killing of Chester Sawyer should be  
presented by indictment before the court  
for trial and punishment."

## ARIZONA MOB MAKES QUICK JOB OF DALEY

PHOENIX, ARIZ., May 6.—Star  
Daley, who by his own confession, killed  
Ray Gibson of Tucson last Thurs-  
day night and then assaulted Mrs.  
Gibson, was hanged to death by a mob  
today. A coroner's jury, holding an  
inquest over the body of the hanged  
man, declared Daley was "a victim of  
justifiable homicide committed by per-  
sons unknown to the jury."

Daley was taken from a sheriff's  
party which was attempting to flee  
with him from the threatening wrath  
of the crowd which was forming here.  
He confessed his crime, telling it in  
detail, and then supervised the making  
of the noose for himself. After the  
Lord's prayer had been recited Daley  
was placed at the top of one of the  
automobiles which was driven from  
under him and he swung to instant  
death. Daley was 24 years old and said  
he was a deserter from the regular ar-  
my. He said his relatives live in  
Oklahoma.

## NEGRESS WHO SHOT OFFICER IS HANGED

BY LOUISIANA MOB  
Constellation 3-2-19

Hammond, La., March 1.—Emma  
Hooper, a negro woman, aged 45,  
charged with shooting and seriously  
wounding Constable Fred Karleton  
here yesterday, when he attempted to  
arrest her for wounding a negro boy,  
was taken from the authorities by a  
small mob last night while she was  
being taken to the jail at Amite City,  
and hanged to a tree about six miles  
west of Hammond. The woman's body  
was found about midnight.

The negress with a shotgun also re-  
sisted arrest after she had shot Karle-  
ton, and she was wounded by a posse  
headed by Chief of Police Ford before  
she was captured. A number of un-  
identified men and boys seized the ne-  
gress from her guard in an automo-  
bile and spirited her away when De-  
puty Sheriff Wainwright left the machine  
to get a pair of handcuffs to place  
on her.

## MOB LYNCHES NEGRO FOR ATTACK ON WOMAN

Constellation 6-17-17

Oklahoma City, Okla., June 16.—  
Henry Conley, a negro, was lynched  
by a mob of 1,000 men and women near  
Holdenville, Okla., late today, after he  
had been identified by the wife of a  
farmer as the man who attacked her  
one week ago. Conley was hanged to  
a tree. The negro was captured near  
Randolph by a posse today after a hunt  
of almost a week. He was taken to  
Holdenville, where a mob of several  
hundred persons met the train, over-  
powered the officers and took posses-  
sion of the negro. A party of men  
then hurried the negro across country  
to the home of his alleged victim, and,  
following the identification, Conley  
was hanged. The mob then dispersed.

Lima, Ohio, June 16.—A posse of  
farmers is beating the woods between  
Lima and Wapakoneta hunting a ne-  
gro who early this morning attacked  
Emma Pezer, a 14-year-old girl, while  
she was picking strawberries along the  
railroad tracks. Five negroes are  
in the Wapakoneta jail, but the girl  
has been unable to identify any one  
of them.

## NEGRO WHO ATTACKED WHITE GIRL IS KILLED

Constellation  
Ex-Convict Is Shot Down by  
Posse South of  
Meigs. 3-3-17

Thomasville, Ga., March 2.—(Spe-  
cial.)—Reports were received here to-  
day of the killing of a negro ex-con-  
vict about four miles south of Meigs  
yesterday, the negro being charged  
with an attempted assault upon a lit-  
tle white girl.

The negro, who had been working  
with the road gang, was released Tues-  
day afternoon and, as some children  
were returning from school Wednes-  
day afternoon, he is said to have called  
a little girl, telling her he wanted her  
to read a letter for him. The child  
went to him, but soon began scream-  
ing. The other children ran to her  
and the negro became frightened and  
ran away. The matter was reported to  
the authorities in Meigs and a posse  
went after the negro yesterday and,  
in attempting to catch him, he was  
shot and killed about four miles south  
of Meigs, near the home of John Wurst.

## COLORED MAN LYNCHED FOR KILLING PLANTER

Posse Runs Victim Down After  
Deputy Sheriff Is Slain

In the Chase.  
The Indianapolis

PROCTOR, Ark., Feb. 14.—A colored  
man known here as James Smith, but  
who officers believe was Coy Ander-  
son, wanted at Benoit, Miss., for the  
killing of a plantation manager named  
Wolfe, was hanged near Proctor last  
week by a mob which surrounded him  
in a swamp after the killing of Fred  
H. Hicks, a deputy sheriff. The mob's  
victim is alleged to have shot and  
killed Hicks when the officer attempt-  
ed to arrest him for creating a dis-  
turbance on a plantation near here.  
Smith was captured and hanged to a  
telegraph pole when he attempted to  
escape from the swamp.

## TEXANS HANG NEGRO ACCUSED OF ASSAULT

Constellation 6-26-17  
(Associated Press.)

GALVESTON, TEXAS, June 25.—  
Chester Sawyer, a negro accused of  
attacking a white woman, was taken  
from jail here early today and hanged  
near the city limits. The mob, com-  
posed of only a few men, entered the  
jail by a ruse and then overpowered  
the jailer.

Sawyer was to have come to trial  
this morning. He came here from  
Brooklyn early this year.



Lynchings - 1917

Cases of

201

From

Chronicle

Jan - June

Address:

Date

MAR 2 1917

## NEGRO IS LYNCHED AT MEIGS, GEORGIA

From

Newport News, Va.

Address:

MAR 1 1917

Date

## NEGRO WOMAN IS LYNCHED BY LOUISIANA MOB

(By Associated Press Leased Wire.)

HAMMOND, La., March 1.—Emma Hooper, a negro woman, aged 45, charged with shooting and seriously wounding Constable Fred Karleton, here yesterday, when he attempted to arrest her for wounding a negro boy, was taken from the authorities by a small mob last night, while she was being taken to the jail at Amite City, and hanged to a tree about six miles west of Hammond. The woman's body was found about midnight.

The negress, with a shotgun, also resisted arrest after she had shot Karleton, and she was wounded by a posse headed by Chief of Police Ford before she was captured. A number of unidentified men and boys seized the negress from her guard in an automobile and spirited her away, when Deputy Sheriff Wainwright left the machine to get a pair of handcuffs to place on her.

### NEGRO LYNCHED NEAR MEIGS

Heigs, Ga., March 1.—Linton Clinton, a young Negro released from the county chain gang yesterday, was lynched near here to-day after he had confessed, it is reported, to assaulting a 6 year old white girl. He was apprehended by two farmers, who started with him to the Thomasville jail. A small body of men overtook them in an automobile, seized Clinton, tied him to a tree and shot him to death.

### FLORIDIANS LYNCH WOMAN'S ATTACKER; TAKEN FROM OFFICER

(Associated Press.)

PUNTA GORDA, FLA., June 25.—Shep Trent, a negro, was taken from officers near Cleveland, Fla., four miles from here last night and shot to death. Trent had been arrested Saturday night after he had attempted an attack on a white woman. Officers were taking him to the county jail at Arcadia when the lynchers took him from them.

From

Address:

Date

FEB 10 1917

**Arkansas Negro Lynched.**  
Proctor, Ark., Feb. 10.—The body of Roy Anderson, alias Smith, a negro found hanging to a telegraph pole, bore mute testimony to the fact that a posse which had been seeking him since last Monday for the murder of Fred W. Hicks, a special deputy sheriff had found him. Anderson, after hiding in the woods several days, took refuge in a cabin, where he was surprised and captured.

### MOB KILLS BOY'S FATHER

Church Reported to Have Been Burned

**Details Lacking**  
Columbus, Miss., April 20.—According to information received here, Joe Sprull, father of Ernest Sprull, the boy who killed George Lawrence (white), a young planter, after the latter is said to have abused him. The affair happened just across the state line in Pickens county, Alabama, and the details of the killing are lacking, but it is admitted that the elder Sprull was put to death by a mob. On last Wednesday the mob burned one of our churches and several dwellings; also a hall used by some of the secret orders. These buildings were located near where the Sprulls lived. It is clearly understood that Joe Sprull had nothing to do with the killing, but being unable to find the boy, the mob murdered his father.

### Negro Woman Hanged

By Louisiana Posse

HAMMOND, La., March 1.—Emma Hooper, a negro woman, aged 45, charged with shooting and seriously wounding Constable Fred Karleton here yesterday when he attempted to arrest her for wounding a negro boy, was taken from the authorities by a small mob last night while she was being taken to the jail at Amite City and hanged to a tree about six miles west of Hammond. The woman's body was found about midnight.

The negress, with a shot gun, also resisted arrest after she had shot Karleton and she was wounded by a posse, headed by Chief of Police Ford, before she was captured. A number of unidentified men and boys seized the negress from her guard and spirited her away when Deputy Sheriff Wainwright left the machine to get a pair of handcuffs to place on her.

### NEGRO IS SHOT DEAD BY MOB IN BROOKS CO.

Quitman, Ga., November 10.—Jesse Stater, a negro, living near Spauld, Ga., was taken from his home Friday night by unknown parties and shot to death in a lonely road. The father of the negro stated that the parties carried a powerful searchlight.  
Near Stater's body was found an insolent letter addressed to a young white woman in the community, and the coroner's jury held this to be the cause of the killing.

From

Address:

Charleston, S. C.

### More Arrested

For Lynching

Three men were arrested at Goose Creek Wednesday by the sheriff's department, brought to Houston and charged with murder before Justice of the Peace Ray in connection with the lynching of Bert Smith, a Negro, at that place last Friday afternoon. All made bond in the sum of \$1000 each and had an examining trial in Justice Ray's court Friday afternoon. This makes 15 men thus far arrested in connection with the lynching.

### MURDER AND ASSAULT AVENGED BY LYNCHERS

Phoenix, Ariz., May 6.—Star Daley, who, by his own confession, killed Ray Gibson, of Tucson, last Thursday night and then assaulted Mrs. Gibson, was hanged to death by a mob today. A coroner's jury, holding an inquest over the body of the hanged man, declared Daley was "a victim of justifiable homicide committed by persons unknown to the jury."

Daley was taken from a sheriff's party, which was attempting to flee with him from the threatening wrath of the crowd which was forming here. He confessed his crime, telling it in detail, and then supervised the making of the noose for himself. After the Lord's Prayer had been recited Daley was placed at the top of one of the automobiles which was driven from under him and he swung to instant death.

Daley was 24 years of age and said he was a deserter from the regular army. He said his relatives live in Oklahoma.

**Lynched After Surrender**  
Dyersburg, Tenn., March 20.—William Thomas, a negro, who after escaping from jail here shot and killed Jeff Yarbrough, a deputy sheriff, after he had been wounded by the officer, was hanged by a mob at Halls, Tenn., where he surrendered yesterday, according to a telephone message received here.

### MOB LYNCHES NEGRO FOR BEATING WATCHMAN

Fulton, Ky., May 30.—Lawrence Dempsey, a negro, was taken from the city jail here early today by a mob and hanged to a telephone cable just a few feet from the jail door. Dempsey had been arrested charged with attacking and seriously beating Clarence Dublin, a railroad watchman.  
The mob worked quietly. The door of the jail was forced, the negro re-

moved and hanged without arousing any one. Some time later a passing patrolman found the negro's body swinging from the telephone cable.

### NEGROES LEAD MOB WHICH HANGS BLACK

advertiser 6-3-17

(Associated Press.)  
COLUMBIA, MISS., June 2.—A mob of about 100 white men and negroes shortly after last midnight overpowered the jailer here and took from their cells Van Haynes and Prat Hampton, negroes, accused of murdering Reece Johnston, also colored. Haynes was hanged to a steel bridge about eight miles south, but Hampton escaped from the mob and fled into the woods eluding his pursuers.

From

Address:

Date

MAR 2 1917

### NEGRO WOMAN LYNCHED BY MOB IN LOUISIANA

Hammond, La., March 1.—Emma Hooper, a negro woman aged 45, charged with shooting and seriously wounding Constable Fred Karleton here yesterday when he attempted to arrest her for wounding a negro boy, was taken from the authorities by a small mob last night while she was being taken to the jail at Amite City and hanged to a tree.

### MOB KILLS FLORIDA NEGRO

PUNTA GORDA, FLA., June 25.—

Shep Trent, a Negro, was taken from officers near Cleveland, Fla., four miles from here, last night and shot to death. He had been arrested for an attempt to attack a white woman.

From

Address: OKLAHOMA CITY, OK.

Date

MAR 2 1917

### GEORGIA NEGRO LYNCHED

Confesses to Dastardly Crime and Meets Untimely End.

MEIGS, Ga., March 1.—Linton Clinton, a young negro released from the county chain gang yesterday, was lynched here today, after he had confessed, it is reported, to having assaulted a six-year-old white girl.

201



From

Address:

Indianapolis, Ind.

MAR 1 - 1917

Date

## MOB LYNCHES COLORED WOMAN IN LOUISIANA

HAMMOND, La., March 1.—Emma Hooper, 45, colored, was captured and lynched by a mob early today after she had shot an officer who had attempted to arrest her for wounding a colored boy. The mob rushed her cabin, six miles from Hammond, seizing her and strapping her up to a tree.

### NEGRO LYNCHED.

(Associated Press.)

MEIGS, GA., March 1.—Linton Clinton, a young negro released from the county chain gang yesterday, was lynched near here today after he had confessed, it is reported, to assaulting a 6-year-old white girl. He was apprehended by two farmers who started with him to the Thomasville jail. A small body of men overtook them in an automobile, seized Clinton, tied him to a tree and shot him to death.

### LYNCHINGS IN 1917

THE number of lynchings in 1917 shows a gratifying decrease, being 34, as compared with 53 in 1916. The subjoined table, showing the annual number during the last thirty-two years, will be of interest to those who are making a special study of the subject:

1885	184	1903	96
1886	138	1904	104
1887	122	1905	87
1888	142	1906	60
1889	176	1907	60
1890	127	1908	65
1891	191	1909	100
1892	205	1910	87
1893	200	1911	74
1894	190	1912	71
1895	171	1913	68
1896	131	1914	68
1897	106	1915	58
1898	127	1916	53
1899	107	1917	34
1900	115		
1901	130		

The number of lynchings in the various states was as follows: Alabama, 5; Arkansas, 5; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 3; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 3; Mississippi, 2; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 4; Virginia, 2; Wyoming, 1; total, south, 31; north, 3. Twenty-eight of these were Negroes and six whites. The crimes for which they were lynched were as follows: Murder, 10; rape, 6; murderous assault, 2; attempted rape, 5; theft, 4; accessories to murder, 1; threats, 3; seditious utterances, 1; insulting women, 3. Among the victims was one woman. The detailed list

#### JANUARY.

10—Unnamed Negro, rape, Greeley, Ala.

#### FEBRUARY.

8—James Smith, colored, murder, Proctor, Ark.

#### MARCH.

1—Linton Clinton, rape, colored, Meigs, Ga.  
1—Emma Hooper, murder, colored, Hammond, La.

#### MAY.

6—Star Daley, murder, Florence, Ariz.  
20—Lawrence Dempsey, murderous assault, Fulton, Ky.

22—Eli Persons, colored, Frankfort, Tenn.

#### JUNE.

2—Van Haynes, colored, murder, Columbia, Miss.

2—Prat Hempton, colored, murder, Columbia, Miss.

16—Henry Conly, colored, rape, Holdenwith, Okla.

22—Benjamin Harper, colored, murder, Courtney, Tex.

24—Poe, Habbie, colored, attempted rape, Plakens county, Alabama.

25—Charles Sawyer, colored, rape, Galveston, Tex.

25—Shepherd Trent, colored, attempted rape, Punta Gorda, Fla.

25—William Powell, colored, threat to kill, Montgomery, Ala.

25—Jesse Powell, colored, threat to kill, Montgomery, Ala.

#### JULY.

21—Unidentified Negro, burglary, Reform, Ala.

31—Andrew Avery, colored, robbery, Garland City, Ark.

23—Daniel Ront, colored, murder, Amite, La.

23—Jerry Ront, colored, murder, Amite, La.

#### AUGUST.

1—Frank Little, I. W. leader, Butte, Mont.

9—Aaron Jimerson, colored, murderous assault, Ashdown, Ark.

17—William Page, colored, attempted rape, Lillian, Va.

22—Charles Jones, colored, attempted rape, near Marshall, Tex.

24—W. D. Sims, colored, seditious utterance, York, S. C.

24—Lawrence Sheppard, colored, larceny, near Memphis, Tenn.

#### SEPTEMBER.

13—Samuel Cate, colored, insulting girls, England, Ark.

18—Rufus Moncrief, colored, rape, Whitehall, Ga.

21—Bert Smith, attempted rape, Goose Creek, Tex.

#### OCTOBER.

8—Unnamed Negro, robbery, Arkansas.

13—Walter Clark, colored, murder, Danville, Va.

#### NOVEMBER.

16—Jesse Slater, colored, insulting white woman, Quitman, Ga.

#### DECEMBER.

2—Liron Scott, colored, rape, Dyersburg, Tenn.



# Lynchings - 1917

Cases of 195

## HUNTING LYNCHERS

## OF LABOR LEADER

*The Constitution*

Five of Men Who Hanged Crippled Frank Little at Butte, Mont., Are Said to Be Known

Butte, Mont., August 1.—Authorities tonight were making every effort to apprehend the vigilantes responsible for lynching Frank Little, an Industrial Worker of the World leader, here early today, but it was said that no clue had come to their attention. Members of the Metal Mine Workers' union, in which Little had taken a prominent part, declared, however, that they knew five of the lynchers and were on the trail of another.

Three hundred national guardsmen were sent here today to preserve order and more are en route.

The Metal Workers' union held a mass meeting this afternoon to discuss the situation, and although the more radical ones advised drastic action, conservatism prevailed, and leaders advised the men to "keep their mouths shut."

Joe Shannon, one of Little's associates; Tom Campbell and a fourth man, whose name he would not mention, were declared by William Sullivan, attorney for the metal workers, to have been "marked to go" by the vigilantes. Sullivan said the metal workers had been warned that Little would be the first victim. He added that every precaution had been taken and that "we had the marked men change rooms every so often."

**Little Taken From Lodging House.**  
Little, who was a member of the executive board of the Industrial Workers of the World and a leader in labor troubles in Arizona, was taken from a lodging house early today by masked men and hanged to a railroad trestle on the outskirts of the city.

The body was cut down at 8 a. m. by the chief of police, Jerry Murphy, who identified it. Little, in a recent speech here, referred to United States troops as "Uncle Sam's scabs in uniform."

Since his arrival in Butte recently from Globe, Ariz., Little had made a number of speeches to strikers in which he attacked the government and urged the men to shut down the mines of the Butte district. His record was under investigation by the federal authorities.

Little took a leading part in recent labor troubles in Arizona. He wrote Governor Campbell, of Arizona, from Salt Lake, protesting against the deportation of L. W. W. members from Bisbee. Governor Campbell replied telling Little he resented his interference and his threats. Little was understood to have the confidence of

William D. Haywood, secretary of the I. W. W. national organization, and was regarded as one of Haywood's confidential agents.

Little was a cripple, but active and a forceful speaker.

### Card Left by Lynchers.

On Little's body was a card bearing the words, "First and last warning. Others take notice. Vigilantes."

Little was taken out of the building in which he lodged by a party of masked men who took him away in an automobile. He was not given time to dress.

The card found on Little's body when he was cut down was pinned to the underclothing on his right thigh. It bore in red crayon letters the inscription:

"Others take notice. First and last warning. 3-7-77. L. D. C. S. S. W. T."

A circle was about the letter "L." The letters were inscribed with a lead pencil.

The figures "3-7-77" are the old sign of the vigilantes in Montana. The custom of the vigilantes was to send three warnings to a marked man, the third and last being written in red.

## LYNCHED IN TENN.

*The Guardian*  
7/25/17

News Scimitar, Aug. 18, 1917.

Lawrence Shepard, came to his death by hanging, the victim of murder by unidentified persons, Coroner N. T. Ingram's jury decided Saturday at an inquest. The verdict in full follows:

"We, the jury in the case, reach a verdict that Lawrence Shepard came to his death by being hung by the neck until dead, and breaking his neck, and also being struck by some blun instrument upon his head. We believe this to be murder, and also believe it was done by unknown parties."

The case presents a deep mystery to the police.

Shepard's body was found early Friday morning lying on the street near the intersection of Lyon and Life streets. A coil of heavy rope was found nearby, its end arranged in a noose, according to witnesses. A telephone pole stands a few feet away from where the body and rope were discovered.

According to the police, Shepard's body was identified as that of "Red" Anderson, a negro arrested some weeks ago charged with stealing brass. They advance the theory that Anderson was probably shot by a night watchman. Coroner Ingram, however, insists that no bullet wound is in evidence. Shepard's body was identified by a Negro woman who lives in the rear of 937 Thomas St.

It is believed that the negro was probably a victim of lynchers. He came to Memphis from Mississippi some time ago.

**Texans Add Another Page to Dark History**

Some of Best White Citizens

July-Dec.

## of Harris County Lynch

*Chicago Herald Tribune*  
10-23-17

Houston, Tex., Oct. 2.—Eight hundred oil-field workers—white Mexicans, Germans and Italians—employed at Goose Creek, a suburb of this city, seized Bert Smith, a member of the Race, and brutally hung him to a tree and added his body with bullets and horribly mutilated it with sledgehammers and butcher knives after cutting it down. Smith was accused of committing an outrage (?) on his employer's wife.

Smith, who was employed as cook on the oil reservation, made complaint to the head of his camp concerning the indecent remarks that were recited to his sister and mother, who came to see him occasionally, and pointed out several men who had annoyed them. A crowd of white hyenas were standing nearby and heard Smith's complaint, and it is claimed that a heinous crime against Smith and his relatives was hatched by this bunch. A week later Smith's sister was on her way from Houston to the camp at Goose Creek, and was seen approaching by three white brutes, who secluded themselves behind some shrubbery. When the girl passed they leaped out, gagged and bound her, and carried the body into the woods, and the three in turn committed outrages on her. After satisfying their beastly natures they ripped the girl of her blood-stained garments and hung them over her head on the limb of a tree. She was found late in the afternoon by several small boys who were out berry picking.

The day following one of the men came near Smith and said, "Hey, nigger, did you see that ugly black wench they picked up in the woods yistidy?" and also uttered other horrible phrases concerning the outrage that would not look good in print. In the midst of these remarks Smith dealt this dirty white polecat a vicious blow that felled him. The argument was closely watched by a number of oil drillers, who immediately attacked Smith and placed a rope around his neck, hammered his mouth in with a sledge and pierced his body with sharp instruments, and then forced a 10-year-old white lad who carried water around the camp to take a large butcher knife and unsex him. Smith, who was still alive, uttered several prayers and begged that all his feelings be taken from him. He was dragged down the main thoroughfare near the camp houses and viewed by women, some of whom, it is rumored, were expecting child-birth. It is also claimed that the treatment was of such an atrocious nature that the severe shock of it caused one of the women to give birth to a child while standing on the doorsteps of her home. She was spirited away to a nearby town for medical aid.

When the news reached Houston a sheriff's posse gathered and started for the scene. The lynchers had good time to suspend the body from a tree and make their way into quarters in order to patch up a miserable crime against Smith in order to deceive the law (?). They met the posse near the roadside and informed them that Smith had ravished a white woman, and threatened to kill her husband. In spite of his lie, fifteen were placed under arrest and placed under \$1,000 bonds each.

What can you expect of this child who was born in the midst of a lynching, and also the lad who is reviewing the body? These are the scums in human flesh who will mock at law and order, shoulder a gun to shoot every Race man and woman in sight. And still they wonder why the Race is leaving the cesspool of crime and horror Texas is crowded with skunks bawling and bawling in lynch law.

## 2 NEGROES LYNCHED BY LOUISIANA MOB IN LIMITS OF TOWN

*The Montgomery Advertiser*  
7/25/17 (Associated Press)

WHITE, La., July 29.—Dan and Jerry Rout, negro brothers, who were confined in the Tangipahoa parish jail charged with murdering Simeon Bennett, a white man, were taken from their cells by a mob today and lynched. The lynching took place within the corporate limits of this city.

A crowd of about 20 persons surrounded the jail while six men went inside, overpowered the jailer, secured his keys and after unlocking the cell, dragged the two negroes to the street. All were masked.

The negro Dan Rout March was rescued from a mob bent on lynching him when he was captured a few days after the murder of Bennett. A rope had been placed around his neck. A few weeks ago he was granted a new trial after he had been found guilty of murder. Dan, today pleaded with his captors for mercy, repeatedly asserting he was innocent of any crime. His brother prayed.

The two negroes were taken to a wooded spot near the city limits and hanged to a tree. The mob dispersed immediately after the hanging. Authorities tonight indicated they would be able to cause arrests of the ring leaders soon.

Bennett was shot and killed last March when he tried to collect a debt from Dan Rout. Dan fired several shots at Bennett who was unarmed and when Bennett made a move as though to draw a weapon, Joe, Jerry and John according to witnesses, fired at Bennett, who dropped dead. The Rout brothers, joined by other relatives, all armed fled to a nearby woods.

After several days hunt, Dan, Joe and John were captured and taken to New Orleans for safe keeping. Jerry escaped for the time being but last week was captured in Mississippi and Saturday was brought here. Joe and John were released at a preliminary hearing for lack of evidence.

## LYNCHING COMES CLOSE ON KILLING IN METTER

*The Constitution*  
7/25-17

Negro Who Shot Three White Men Riddled With Bullets by Mob.

Savannah, Ga., December 15.—(Special.)—It was learned in Savannah tonight that Metter, Candler county, was the scene late this afternoon of a tragedy in which two men were shot to death and two others perhaps fatally wounded.

Claxton Dekle, colored, and a white man whose name was afterwards ascertained to be J. L. Parish became engaged in an altercation in a store. Mr. Parish attempted to put the negro out of the store, and when he seemed to be getting the worst of it, Demp and James Riggs, white men, went to his rescue.

Dekle is alleged to have drawn a pistol. First he shot the stranger to death and then turned on the Riggs brothers. He riddled both of them and then fled. A mob was quickly formed and Dekle was overtaken. They made quick work of him, his body being literally shot to pieces.

Mr. Parish, the dead white man, is said to have been a prosperous Candler county farmer.

## TEXAS MOB HANGS MAN

*Amsterdam News*  
7/25/17  
Alleged Attacker of White Woman Taken From Jail and Lynched

Houston, Tex., Sept. 22.—Another instance of the South's love for the colored man occurred near here yesterday afternoon when an unidentified colored man, charged with attacking a white woman, was taken from the jail at Goose Creek and murdered by a mob of 800 oil field workers, who hung him up to a convenient tree.

## 2 NEGROES LYNCHED IN MITCHELL COUNTY

*GAULTRIE GAZETTE*  
NOVEMBER 23, 1917

Collins Johnson and D. C. Johnson,

two negroes, were lynched near Sale City Saturday night, according to word received here. It is reported

that the negroes became involved in a dispute with some white men at the stock gate located on the line between Dougherty and Mitchell counties, and that this resulted in the lynching.

The two negroes are said to have been forced to get in the automobile and were carried three or four miles and then shot to death by the white men. A coroner's inquest has been held but the verdict returned hasn't been made public.

## NEGRO IS LYNCHED

*The Constitution*  
8/11/17  
BY MOB IN VIRGINIA

Heathsville, Va., August 16.—William Page, a negro, accused of attempting to attack two young white women at Lillian, Va., was taken from officers and lynched last night, according to information reaching here today. The negro had been captured by Sheriff Healy and a local magistrate, aided by the father of one of the young women. A mob of several hundred masked men took the negro from the officers and hanged him in a nearby negro settlement. It is said to be the first lynching in Virginia in eighteen years.



# MAN LYNCHED BY ARKANSAS MOB

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
**Aaron Jimerson Taken From Jail and Murdered for Attack on Constable**

Ashdown, Ark., Aug. 11.—Aaron Jimerson, 30 years old, was taken from the jail at Foreman, sixteen miles west of Ashdown, and hanged to a telegraph pole by a white mob of murderers. The colored man was hanged because of an alleged attack on Constable Anderson, when the officer attempted to place him in jail on a charge of assault with intent to kill for shooting at another colored man.

## MAN LYNCHED IN ARKAN.

*The Guardian, 8/16/17*  
Ashdown, Ark., Aug. 11.—Aaron Jimerson, 30 years old, was taken from the jail at Foreman, sixteen miles west of Ashdown, and hanged to a telegraph pole by a white mob of murderers. The colored man was hanged because of an alleged attack on a charge of assault with intent to kill for shooting at another colored man.

Columbus, Miss., July 24.—News reached here tonight of the lynching.

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
Monday night of Joe Hibbler, negro, in Pickens county, Alabama, just across the state line from here for an attempted crime against the daughter of a prominent citizen of that county. The negro was taken from a deputy sheriff who was on route to Carrollton, Ala., with the prisoner, and hanged to a tree. The negro entered the bedroom of the girl, but was frightened away when she awoke and screamed. He was tracked to near Reform, where he was arrested.

Another negro, implicated by Hibbler, was given a hearing at Carrollton yesterday and acquitted.

## BULLET-RIDDLED NEGRO FOUND HANGED TO TREE

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
Athens, Ga., September 18.—Early this morning persons passing along the country road near Whitehall saw the body of a negro tied to three trees and riddled with bullets. Investigation showed it to be the remains of Rufus Moncrief, a 30-year-old negro. Over his head was tacked a piece of paper bearing the words: "You have assaulted one white girl but will not another."

This paper is in the hands of the authorities. There is no other clue. Persons near the scene say that two automobiles came to the spot just after midnight, that a fusillade of shots was heard, and the machines went back toward Watkinsville.

## TWO NEGROES LYNCHED FOR DRAWING PISTOLS

# On White Man and the Late Laborer—Alabama Mob Did the Work.

Montgomery, Ala., July 24.—Will and Jesse Powell, negroes, who were arrested here early this morning, tonight were taken from deputies in Lowndes county, near here, where they were wanted, and lynched to a nearby tree. The mob numbered about 100. The deputies endeavored to protect the negroes, but the mob overpowered them and forcibly took possession of their prisoners.

The two negroes held up a white farmer and his negro laborer, at the point of pistols yesterday, while the latter were en route from their homes at Letohatchie, Lowndes county, to the white man's plantation, five miles away. The negroes brushed against the white man's horse, and when the latter remonstrated, they drew their revolvers and threatened him.

The negroes came to Montgomery Monday evening and were arrested at the union passenger station this morning when in the act of catching a train for their home in Birmingham. Both freely admitted holding their pistols on the men, but claimed the white man had struck one of them and they tried to protect themselves.

## INDICTED AS LYNCHERS OF NEGRO PREACHER

York, S. C., September 10.—Six white men and five negroes were indicted by the York grand jury today charged with murder, for alleged participation in the lynching of W. T. Sims, a negro preacher, by a mob on August 23. The accused are Carson Lattimore, J. Meek McGill, Fred Penninger, T. R. Penninger, L. Ezell Bolin and Dick Norman, white; and William Sanders, Thomas Sanders, Frank Twitty, Lonnie Franklin and Lawyer Sanders, negroes. All are in jail except Dick Norman, who has been released on bail.

## Lynched by Negroes?

Athens, Ga., September 20.—At Watkinsville the coroner's jury in the case of Rufus Moncrief, the negro whose body was found beside the road riddled with bullets, seems to have unearthed a murder, which crime it was attempted to hide behind Ku Klux methods.

The negro, it is practically established, was killed by others of his race after a big gambling meet.

## LYNCH TEXAS COLORED. Take Prisoner from Jail and Rush Him Away in Auto.

Marshall, Tex., Aug. 23, 1917.—Chas. Jones, colored, was taken from the jail here Thursday by five men, rushed away in an automobile and hanged to a tree halfway between here and Elysian Fields before the sheriff and deputies who pursued them arrived. Jones was arrested yesterday on a charge of entering the room of a white woman at Elysian Fields, Monday night.

## N Y C EVE STAATS ZEITUNG

SEPTEMBER 13, 1917

**Lynchmord in Michigan.**  
Mob raubert Wahnfinnigen aus und erschlägt ihn.

Stillsate, Mich., 13. Sept. Ein Mob hat hier heute früh den irrsinnigen Frank Van Tassel, der gestern Abend den Sheriff George Ralston erschossen hatte, getötet.

Van Tassel war in seiner Scheune von dem Mob gestellt worden. Das Gebäude wurde in Brand gesteckt, und als der Wahnfinnige den Flammen zu entfliehen versuchte, wurde er mit zahlreichen Schüssen niedergestreckt.

## Ein Neger in Arkansas gelynch.

England, Ark., 13. Sept. Ein 25 Jahre alter Neger, der wegen Belästigung zweier Mädchen verhaftet worden war, wurde gestern Nacht von einem Böbelhaufen dem Konstabler entzissen und auf der Stelle erschossen.

## NEGRO LYNCHED IN OKLAHOMA

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
Had Been Accused of Assaulting and Robbing White Man.

Garland City, Okla., July 31 (by A. P.).—Arland Avery, a negro, was lynched here last night. It was asserted he had assaulted and robbed William Woods, a contractor. An officer was returning to Texarkana with Avery when a crowd of forty men overpowered him and took possession of the negro. Woods has a chance for recovery, it was said at the hospital where he was taken.

## Negro Shot Dead Trying to Escape After Crime

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
Orange, Tex., July 31.—Gilbert Gaudry, negro, arrested by officers and being taken to jail, was shot to death in the outskirts of Orange early today when he tried to escape from his captors' automobile. The Negro was charged with an attempted attack on the 5 year old daughter of a well-known oil man of Clinton, La.

## N Y C GLOBE

AUGUST 17, 1917

## NEGRO LYNCHED IN VA.?

**FIRST CASE IN 18 YEARS**

HEATHSVILLE, Va., Aug. 16.—William Page, a Negro, accused of attempting to attack two young women at Lillian, Va., was taken from officers and lynched last night, according to information reaching here to-day. This was said to be the first lynching in Virginia in eighteen years.

## ALABAMA MOB LYNCHED NEGROES FOR THREATS

**GRAND JUNCTION COLO NEWS**  
JULY 27, 1917

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 25.—Will and Jesse Powell, negroes who were arrested here today on a charge of threatening the life of a white farmer and his negro helper, were tonight taken by a mob from deputies in Lowndes county and lynched to a nearby tree. The trouble is said to have arisen when the negroes brushed against the farmer's horse.

# NEGRO LYNCHED AT WHITEHALL, GA.

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
ATHENS, GA., Sept. 18.—Rufus Moncrief, negro, 30 years old, was lynched about 1 a. m. today near Whitehall, Ga. The usual crime was charged. The body was found this morning hanging beside the road.

## NEGRO SHOT TO DEATH FOR INSULT TO GIRLS

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
England, Ark., September 13.—Sam Cates, negro, 25 years old, was shot to death by a mob of white men here last night after the negro had been taken from a deputy constable, it was made known today. Cates was charged with insulting white girls.

## N Y C EVE SUN

JULY 30, 1917

## TWO NEGROES LYNCHED. Mob Strings Up Pair Accused of Murdering White Man.

NEW ORLEANS, July 30.—Two negroes, Dan and Jerry Rout, were taken from their cells in the Tangipahoa Parish jail and lynched in Amite, La., yesterday. They were accused of murdering a white man last March when he went to their home to collect a debt.

## N Y C CALL

AUGUST 1, 1917

## NEGRO TAKEN FROM OFFICER AND LYNCHED BY MOB

Garland City, Okla., July 31.—Arland Avery, a Negro, was lynched here last night. It was asserted he had assaulted and robbed William Woods, a contractor. An officer was returning to Texarkana with Avery when a crowd of men overpowered him and took possession of the Negro. Woods has a chance for recovery.

## Mob Lynches Negro In Distant Wyoming

*By Associated Press.*  
Rock Springs, Wyo., Dec. 13.—An unidentified negro, charged with molesting women of Blairtown, a suburb, was taken from the city jail Wednesday and hanged. Twenty-five citizens overpowered the jailer.

## N Y C GLOBE

JULY 25, 1917

## NEGROES LYNCHED; HAD JOSTLED A HORSE

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 25.—Will and Jesse Powell, negroes who were arrested here to-day on a charge of threatening the life of a white farmer and his negro helper, were to-night taken by a mob from deputies in Lowndes county and lynched to a nearby tree.

The trouble is said to have arisen when the negroes brushed against the farmer's horse.

## BLACK IS TAKEN AWAY FROM OFFICER AT GARLAND CITY, ARK.

Texarkana, Ark., July 30.—Andrew Avery,

negro, was lynched on the main street of Garland City, Ark., a small town about twenty miles from here, tonight. A crowd of forty men took the negro from Deputy Sheriff Walter Oden as the officer was returning with his prisoner to Texarkana.

It was charged that Avery murderously assaulted and robbed William Woods, a levee conductor on the Red river. Woods was found today where he had lain hidden for thirty-six hours in a mudhole in a swamp.

## NEGRO LYNCHED

*The Commercial Appeal, 8/16/17*  
ASTOWN, ARK., Aug. 9.—Aaron Jimerson, a negro, was taken from the jail at Foreman, 16 miles west of here last night and hanged to a telegraph pole by a mob. The negro was held because of an attack on Sam Anderson, a constable, when the officer attempted to place him in jail on a charge of assault with intent to kill for shooting at another negro.

## N Y C HERALD

DECEMBER 13, 1917

## Wyoming Citizens Lynch Negro. ROCK SPRINGS.

An unidentified negro, charged with molesting women residents of Blairtown, a suburb, was taken from the city jail today and hanged to a railroad bridge. Twenty-five citizens overpowered the jailer.

## N Y C WORLD

DECEMBER 13, 1917

## LYNCH NEGRO IN WYOMING. Twenty-Five Citizens Overpower Jailer to Avenge Women of Town

Rock Springs, Wyo., Dec. 13.—An unidentified negro, charged with molesting women residents of Blairtown, a suburb, was taken from the City Jail to-day and hanged to a railroad bridge. Twenty-five citizens overpowered the jailer at the City Prison to secure the negro.

## WYOMING NEWS

SEPTEMBER 22, 1917

## NEGRO LYNCHING IN TEXAS

A Negro charged with attacking a white woman was taken from the jail at Goose Creek near Houston, Tex., yesterday and lynched by a mob of 800 oil field workers.

## N Y C GLOBE

SEPTEMBER 13, 1917

## NEGRO IS TAKEN FROM DEPUTY AND LYNCHED

ENGLAND, Ark., Sept. 13.—Sam Cates, Negro, was shot to death by a mob of white men late last night after the mob had taken him from a deputy constable. Cates was charged with annoying white girls.

## N Y C SUN

DECEMBER 13, 1917

## Negro Lynched in Wyoming. ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo., Dec. 12.—An unidentified negro charged with molesting women residents of Blairtown, a suburb, was taken from the city jail today and hanged to a railroad bridge. Twenty-five citizens overpowered the jailer at the city prison to secure the negro.



# Two Young Negroes Arrested Here, Were Lynched in Lowndes

Inability to control a fractious county mule, was the insignificant incident which resulted in the lynching, or murder as some pronounce it, of two negro boys, near Letohatchie last night.

The victims were Will and Sam Powell of Birmingham.

Yesterday morning the two Powell boys who had been in Lowndes county on a visit to their father, were en route to the station at Letohatchie, on the way back to Birmingham. They were driving a mule, which was not well broken. According to reports received here today from Letohatchie, the mule shied in passing the buggy of A. H. Jenkins, and there was a collision. There were some words, and pistols were drawn. One report states that Mr. Jenkins first covered the negroes and that one of the negroes drew his gun. Another report states that the negroes drew guns and forced Mr. Jenkins to drive away from the scene. At any rate no blood was shed, and the most serious offense which could have been docketed against any one was that of carrying a revolver.

The Powell boys were accompanied by their father, an old negro well known in Lowndes county. The old man appeared at the station in Letohatchie afterward and stated that he feared for his boys, but they had not done anything for which they should be punished.

When about to take the train for Birmingham, the Powell brothers were arrested in Montgomery at the station and were lodged in Montgomery county jail, the war their arrest having been sworn to by Mr. Jenkins.

Yesterday afternoon the prisoners were turned over to Deputy Sheriff R. L. Grant, who was accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Mastin, and they started to Hayneville with them. Between Hayneville and Letohatchie, they were lynched.

The lynching is shrouded in mystery. Where the mob came from is not known. Justice of the peace A. J. Jenkins at Letohatchie states that there was not a single strange man in Letohatchie last night, at the time of the storm, but that late in the night and early this morning many strange faces were seen. The opinion prevails that the lynching, while directly caused by the run-in between Mr. A. H. Jenkins, son of Mr. A. J. Jenkins, that some old scores were settled.

One of the Powell boys it is stated was run off the place of a Mr. Farrier several years ago, after killing a 200-pound hog and that this boy at that time had a narrow escape from death.

The lynching took place half way between Letohatchie and Haynesville, to

**MONTANANS  
LYNCH I.W.W.  
LEADER WHO  
ATTACKS U.S.**

**Member Of Executive  
Board of "Workers"**

**FEDERAL OFFICIALS  
PROBING ACTIVITIES**

**Card On Body Reads  
"First And Last  
Warning"**

(Associated Press.)  
BUTTE, MONT., Aug. 1.—Frank Little, member of the executive board of the Industrial Workers of the World and a leader in labor troubles in Arizona, was taken from a lodging house early today by masked men and hanged to a railroad trestle on the outskirts of the city.

The body was cut down at 8 a. m., by the chief of police, Jerry Murphy, who identified it. Little in a recent speech here referred to United States troops as "Uncle Sam's scabs in uniform."

## Attacks Government.

Since his arrival in Butte recently from Globe, Arizona, Little had made a number of speeches to strikers in all of which he had attacked the government and urged the men to shut down the mines of the Butte district. His record was under investigation by the federal authorities whose attention had been called to his activities.

Little took a leading part in recent labor troubles in Arizona. He wrote to Governor Campbell, of Arizona, from Salt Lake City protesting against the deportation of I. W. W. members from Bishop. Governor Campbell replied, telling Little he resented his interference and his threats. Little was understood to have the confidence of William D. Haywood, secretary of the I. W. W. national organization and was regarded here as one of Haywood's confidential agents.

## Little A Cripple.

Little was a cripple but active and a forceful speaker.

On Little's body was a card bearing the words "First and last warning. Others take notice. Vigilantes."

Little was taken out of the building in which he lodged by a party of masked men who took him away in an automobile. He was not given time to dress. The building is near the Finn Hall, which is headquarters for the new metal mine workers' union, which recently called a strike of miners and which was frequently addressed by Little.

Six masked men in an automobile drove up to the front of Little's hotel at five minutes after 3 o'clock. One stood upon the sidewalk in front of the rooming house. The others entered.

Without speaking the men quickly broke into room No. 30, on the ground floor. Light from an electric torch showed them the room was unoccupied. Mrs. Nora Byrne, owner of the hotel, was awakened by the noise.

"Some mistake here," she heard a voice say. Then she heard the men move to the door of her room which they pushed slightly open. Mrs. Byrne sprang to the door and held it. "Wait until I get my clothes on," she said. Then she asked who they were and what they wanted.

"We are officers and we want Frank Little," she was told.

Mrs. Byrne hastily dressed, again went to the door and opened it.

The leader of the masked men poked a revolver into the opening.

"Where is Frank Little?" he asked.

"He is in room No. 32," answered Mrs. Byrne.

The men ran down the hall and tried the door to that room. Then one of them gave it a kick that broke the lock and they entered.

Mrs. Byrne said she heard them coming from the room and saw them half lead and half carry Little across the sidewalk and push him into a motor car.

The body was found hanging on the north side of the railroad trestle. On the back of his head was a bloody mark.

Little wore only his underclothing. He is not known to have made an outcry or demanded any explanation.

Little began to make speeches on the day of his arrival in Butte three weeks ago. On July 19th before a

mass meeting of miners Little said: "If the mines are taken under Federal control we will make it so hot for the government that it will not be able to send troops to France."

Referring in another address to his interview recently with Governor Campbell of Arizona, Little said that he used these words:

"Governor, I don't give a d— what your country is fighting for; I am fighting for the solidarity of labor."

Last Friday night at Finn Hall before the metal mine workers' union, Little said: "A city ordinance is simply a piece of paper which can be torn up. The same can be said of the constitution of the United States."

**NEGRO STRUNG UP  
TO TREE ONE MILE  
FROM REFORM, ALA.**

**Advertiser 7/18/17  
Confessed to Having At-**

**tempted Assault on  
Farmer's Daughter**

(Special to The Advertiser.)  
TUSCALOOSA ALA, July 17—News reached Tuscaloosa today that an unknown negro was taken from police men Gunter and Adcox near Reform last night between 10 and 11 o'clock and strung up to a tree.

The negro confessed to having entered the home of a farmer named Price, living about four miles from Reform for the purpose of committing an assault on Mr. Price's daughter.

The capture was made early last night. Fearing lynching, the officers attempted to carry the negro with another suspect to the Pickens county jail at Carrollton. They had proceeded but half mile from town when the mob stopped them and took the negro.

A plow line was used in hanging him and when Tuscaloosa traveling men passed the scene this morning the body was still hanging, with the feet only about a foot from the ground.

The other negro acted as a watcher while the brute entered the home of Mr. Price. He had designs on the daughter of the farmer but by mistake entered the room of Mrs. Price who gave the alarm.

The negroes escaped but were traced to a negro settlement and captured last night. Both are newcomers to that vicinity having been around Reform only three weeks. The officers did not recognize any of the members of the mob.

**PROBING ACTIVITIES  
BY**

Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 17.—An unidentified negro was taken from two policemen by a mob near Reform, Ala., last night and hanged from a tree. The negro is said to have confessed to entering the home of a farmer named Price, earlier in the night.

## Damnably Than Burning of Eli Persons

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 12.—On or about Sept. 15, Mathis Howard, an industrious farmer living near Millington, Tenn., about eighteen miles from Memphis, in the heart of America's aviation fields, was visited, cursed and abused by one W. R. Keithley, a white undertaker of Millington, because Howard's cow had entered his field. After some hot words, and you should know about what a man of Keithley's caliber would say to a Race man: "You black son of a ———, your cows are, or have been in my field, and I have them locked in my stable, and am going to keep them there." Of course, Howard resented this kind of treatment, objected to this man's language in the presence of his wife and daughters; so he asked his shotgun and sprinkled his assailant with bird shot and fled from his home. Fled because he knew that a mob of bloodthirsty murderers would call within an hour and lynch him; and that bloodthirsty mob did come; that mob the Memphis papers call a posse of several hundred of the best citizens of Millington and Memphis, searched for two weeks, day and night, terrorizing the homes of Race people in that section, insulting their wives and daughters, clubbing and otherwise abusing the men and boys.

Now, just think of this mob, its personnel, two of our brave sheriffs, Tate's deputies, and 300 of the 3,000 men who murdered and burned Eli Persons; all heavily armed, scouring the woods, the fields, day and night for a man who tried to protect his home and his life from the insults and abuses of an undertaker who made all of his money burying and robbing Race farmers—this man who actually horsewhipped a fraternal worker for recommending to his order a Race undertaker.

What Followed  
After this man Keithley had recovered, Mathis Howard was captured near Carrollton, Mo. His honor, Sheriff Tate, was notified. He deputized or ordered this town marshal of Millington and two other officers from Millington to proceed to Missouri and get Howard. W. R. Keithley joined the party. They secured their prisoner, intentionally missed every train leaving Carrollton, and started for Millington and Memphis with their man in an automobile, knowing that a mob had been searching for this man for three weeks, knowing that three years ago six Race men were lynched in this same neighborhood; knowing that Millington men helped to behead and burn Eli Persons; knowing that a mob was forming the night before to meet them. In the face of all this, they took this chained, helpless, handcuffed man to the river and murdered him—lynched



The man known as the high sheriff of the richest county in Tennessee. His blood, along with El Persons, will forever stain the soul of Mike G. Tate, sheriff, shot to death by a mob composed of officers of the law, with the undertaker in the grand stand to see it well done. This is about the fifth man done to death in as many weeks by Tate's mobs; he headed a group of these bloodthirsty murderers and himself shot an innocent race man at Bartlett, Tenn., who owned a beautiful farm; shot another who was a good citizen, a deacon in his church; had never been arrested or accused of any crime other than the crime of being black.

In this, the most lawless county in Tennessee, or in the world, what are we to do? There seems to be no recourse—the whole political machine is rotten to the core. Race men of influence and money dare not speak. If they do, this same mob that is being fed from taxpayers' money will murder them and destroy their property; they protect safe-rippers; they pay \$22,000 to the official mob for the privilege of running dives for the race and brag about it. Read the poster proceeding now in progress. If you doubt these facts, the thieves have fallen out and they are now telling this horrible tale to the world.

If JUSTICE could get a hearing in this county, there would not be a single one now in office there thirty; the sheriff will go in person to insure and protect a case of "SHO or whisky and will send two or three brutal cowards to protect and a human being.

## THREE NEGROES LYNCHED BY MOBS

JACKSONVILLE FLA. METRO  
JULY 25, 1917

Alabama Citizens Avenue  
Crimes After Clash With  
Sheriff's Officers.

Montgomery, Ala., July 25.—Will and Jesse Powell, negroes, who were arrested here early Tuesday, were taken last night from deputies in Lowndes county near here where they were wanted, and hanged to a tree. The mob numbered about 100. The deputies endeavored to protect the negroes, but the mob overpowered them and forcibly took possession of the prisoners.

The two negroes with pistols held up a farmer and his negro laborer yesterday. Both are said to have admitted drawing their pistols on the men, but claimed the white man had struck one of them and that they tried to protect themselves.

**Avenge Assault Attempt.**  
Columbus, Miss., July 25.—News reached here last night of the lynching Monday night of Poe Hibbler, a negro, in Pickens county, Alabama, just across the state line from here, for an attempted crime against the daughter of a citizen of that county. The negro was taken from a deputy sheriff who was en route to Carrollton, Ala., with the prisoner, and hanged to a tree. The negro entered the bedroom of the girl, but was frightened away when she awoke and screamed.

## INDICT P. MASTER AS LYNCHER OF BRAVE PREACHER

*New Jersey Information*  
**South Carolina Grand Jury  
Returns Bills Against Federal Official and Police-  
man as Leaders of Bar-  
barous Mob**

York, S. C., Sept. 18.—When Rev. W. T. Sims, a colored preacher of this place, advocated equal justice to all in the administration of the affairs of this country, referred to the deplorable Memphis lynching of a member of the race and the East St. Louis barbarity of the whites there, other members of the race inimical to his interest read the news among theigate w es that he was encouraging loyalty to the Government and a mob of laboring men under the pretext of upholding loyalty to the Government attacked the conscientious preacher, with the result that his death followed shortly after. The grand jury in session here last week, after a thorough investigation of the lynching returned true bills charging complicity in the lynching of the preacher against Meek McGill, postmaster of Hickory Grove and Carson Lattimore, policeman of that place. They were placed in jail and have made statements which will incriminate certain negroes with the lynching. The action of the state authorities in bringing to justice and exposing these officers is a source of favorable comment throughout the State. It is stated that the Government authorities have urged a larger investigation of the lynching and it is due to their efforts that these individuals were indicted.

## FOUR WHITES HELD FOR NEGRO'S DEATH MURDER IS CHARGED

*The Montgomery Advertiser*, 8/2/17  
(Associated Press.)  
NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 1.—Four white men, members of well known families in Garyville, La., were held in jail today at Edgard, St. John Parish, charged with the murder of Marcel Ruffin, negro, 20 years old, whose body recently was found in the Mississippi river, with iron weights tied to it. Ruffin had been held in the Garyville jail on a vagrancy charge, but was released about three weeks ago, when he disappeared. The prosecuting attorney declined to reveal the nature of the evidence against the prisoners who are: Leonard Desroche, J. Blouin, Charles Badeaux and Frank Pepitone. It was stated no crime had been charged against the negro, who apparently had been the victim of a lynching.

## MOB KILLS COLORED PREACHER ON DRAFT.

*The Guardian*  
Whites in Shooting Man  
Special Draft Is Claim.  
S. C., Aug. 23, 1917.—W. T. Sims, a Negro preacher, died today from injuries received near here last night at the hands of a mob composed of whites and Negroes, who were said to have been enraged at utterances opposing the draft law attributed to him. Sims was badly beaten and was shot several times.

Fred Penninger, white, and Frank Twitty, a Negro, were arrested in connection with the affair.

Sims, who was about 50 years old, was spending the night at the home of Robert Burris, and, according to the latter, said just before he died that he did not know why he had been attacked.

Burris said a large crowd of white men and Negroes had seized Sims last night, and that he found the Negro preacher 500 yards away from Burris' home early today. Sims recently had incurred the enmity of members of his congregation through opposition to the war and the draft, it was said.

Charges connected with the use of church funds also were said to have played a part in the ill feeling aroused.

## Two Negroes Caught Here Are Lynched

*The Montgomery Advertiser*  
(Special to The Advertiser.)  
LETOHATCHIE, ALA., July 24.—

While on their way to Hayneville early tonight with two negroes, Deputies Grant and Mastin were overhauled between here and Hayneville by a mob estimated to have numbered one hundred men, and the negroes taken by force from them and lynched. In a short time after the lynching, Deputy Sheriff Hubbard, who was on his way to Letohatchie, was met by the deputies and all come on here to report the matter by phone to Sheriff Watson an ask for instructions.

The negroes, whose names are Powell, hall from Birmingham. They have been in this section several days and are said to have committed several crimes, including that of holding a farmer up a day or two ago at the point of pistols. They were arrested in Montgomery early today, where concealed pistols were taken from them and were being carried to Hayneville when the lynching occurred.

There was not the slightest intimation of a mob being formed here, and where these hundred men came from is a mystery.

## NEGRO IS BURNED BY TENNESSEE MOB

*The Guardian*  
**Victim Accused of Assault-  
ing Woman—Negro Bound  
to Iron Stake Near Dyers-  
burg Square and the Match  
Applied**

Dyersburg, Tenn., December 2.—Ligon Scott, a negro, who is alleged to have criminally assaulted a white woman in Dyer county November 22, was burned at the stake on the public square here today shortly after noon.

The negro was arrested in Jackson, Tenn., late Saturday and was being brought to Dyersburg in an automobile by the sheriff and his deputies when a mob met the officers and relieved them of their prisoner and proceeded to Dyersburg.

The entire county soon knew of the capture of the fugitive and thousands flocked to town. A trial was arranged for and a jury selected while the mob was importuned to withhold action until the jury decided his fate.

The negro confessed his guilt and was taken to a vacant lot near the public square. An iron stake was driven in the ground and the negro was tied to this. He was then stripped of his clothing and a bonfire was lighted. His body was soon consumed by the flames. The crowd was orderly and carried out the execution without a hitch. The crowd dispersed before night and the usual Sunday quietude reigns in the city tonight.

## COLORED MAN LYNCHED IN STATE OF VIRGINIA.

*The Guardian*  
**NORTHUMBERLAND FARMERS  
BREAK 18-YEAR RECORD OF OLD  
DOMINION**

Heathsville Va., August 16.—Virginia's unblemished lynching record of eighteen years' standing has been broken.

At Lillian, Northumberland County, within a few miles of Heathsville, William Page, a colored farm hand recently accepted for the new national army, last night was hanged by a party of nearly 500 masked and grimly determined farmers, following an attempted assault made upon the daughter and niece of Captain Truitt, one of the most prominent farmers on the Northern Neck.

Governor Stuart has frequently expressed the hope that his entire administration would pass without the disgrace of a lynching in this Commonwealth.

## HELD UP FARMER NEGROES LYNCHED

Montgomery, Ala., July 24.—Will and Jesse Powell, negroes, who were arrested here early to-day, were taken to-night from deputies in Lowndes county near here, where they were wanted, and hanged to a tree. The mob numbered about 100. The deputies endeavored to protect the negroes, but the mob overpowered them and forcibly took possession of the prisoners.

The two negroes with pistols held up a farmer and his negro laborer yesterday. Both are said to have admitted drawing their pistols on the men, but claimed the white man had struck one of them and that they tried to protect themselves.

## 2 LOWNDES NEGROES ARE ARRESTED HERE ON SERIOUS CHARGE

*The Montgomery Advertiser*  
Will Powell and Sam  
Powell Said to Have Ad-  
mitted Identity

Will Powell and Sam Powell, negroes, arrested at the Union Railway Station shortly after eight o'clock Tuesday morning, admit that they are the pair who covered A. H. Jenkins with revolvers near Letohatchie Monday morning and told him they would blow his heart out, according to the police. They were turned over to Deputy Sheriff R. L. Grant, of Lowndes county, Tuesday afternoon and taken to Letohatchie on the early afternoon train to answer charges of assault with intent to murder. It was said that at Letohatchie the Lowndes county sheriff would be in waiting to carry the prisoners to Hayneville, the county seat.

The negroes were located at the depot by Louisville and Nashville Officers Johnson and Rucker and were taken in custody a few minutes later by Patrolmen King and Curtis. It is believed they were preparing to catch the north-bound Louisville and Nashville train out of Montgomery, leaving at 9 o'clock. They offered no resistance.

When searched at the police station, a pistol was found on each of the negroes, the police state. They freely admitted that they were the same negroes who held Mr. Jenkins at the points of pistols Monday, the police say, but claimed that Mr. Jenkins started the trouble by striking one of them. After the trouble, the negroes said they drove a short distance in their buggy and left their buggy standing while they footed it into Montgomery through the woods. They admitted they formerly lived in Lowndes county, but for the last two years have been working in the Birmingham district.



Discussions

NOT BELGIUM—AMERICA

# Make Lynching a Federal Offense

WANTED—100,000 Men and Women to Flood Congress with Letters and Telegrams, urging a bill to Make Lynching a Federal Offense.

## O JUSTICE! ART THOU BLIND?

It is with profound regret that we chronicle the death by mob violence of two Negroes; Lawrence Demsey, near Fulton, Ky., and Ell. Person, near Memphis, Tenn. One of these victims was charged with murder, while the other was charged with assault with a razor. As to whether they were guilty of the crimes for which they paid their lives has not been established. A mob constituted the judge and jury in the cases. We have always contended that a mob is the least capable of passing on a case on its merits. If there is a sane person who is willing to trust his own case in the hands of a mob, a reward is hereby offered for his capture.

In one case, it is stated that several thousand people gathered around their victim and made merry while the body was saturated with oil and to give the occasion the appearance of a lofty celebration, the christening of a ship or launching of a world wide movement, a woman was called upon to apply the torch. Horror! horror! almost despicable sight was witnessed as the flames engulfed the human form and reduced it to ashes.

As this news is flashed to all the world, we hear the cry coming up from 10,000,000 Negroes whose very souls rebel against this treatment of the Negro race in this country. No other class of human beings are subjected to such treatment, be they friend or foe of the nation, be they assassins of Presidents or insulters of the flag. No matter what they are or what their crimes may be, they are accorded better treatment at the hands of those who call themselves true Americans, than the Negro who has always been found loyal in war and in peace.

Such crimes against our race pierce the soul of its thinking members and leave a wound that is not so easily healed. While we know that, as a race, we are inclined to forgive, to make excuses for the wrongs that are imposed upon us by our white brother; we also know that "even a worm of the earth will turn when trod upon." Yes we say again, we are easy to forget, we are anxious to forget. We should like for the past to only appear as a matter of history. We should like to feel in a time like this, that the boasted democracy of this country is sitting on its perch of reality. We should like to sing the song, "My Country 'Tis of Thee Sweet Land of Liberty," just as the other people do. We should like to feel that the Stars and Stripes mean the same to us as they do to other people.

Regardless of the insults that are forced upon us; regardless of the fact that we are denied enlistment in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps; yes, regardless of all these things, we are loyal American citizens, we are human beings, we feel this very keenly, we can be insulted.

To three members of the Silent Protest Parade Committee to whom he granted an interview on August 15, President Wilson "poke out"—softly! Not that it is the present President's policy to carry a big stick and speak softly, but he was speaking on the murder of colored children, women and men, a subject on which he has heretofore spoken not at all.

The President, after holding his peace for five years, at last deigned to comment on the lynchings of colored citizens, but most of what he said was not for publication, and the rest it appears, was only for colored consumption.

President Wilson was "too busy" to see the full committee that went to Washington a few weeks ago fresh from the Silent Protest Parade in New York and representing not only 15,000 marchers in that parade but the entire race. To what political horizons and on what exigency, then, were the eyes of the President cast when he granted an interview through, we understand, the intercession of one A. B. Cosey, who incidentally foisted himself upon the committee and limited it to four persons?

President Wilson is reported to have said, among other things: "What human being would not be shocked at these atrocities? Apart from my position as President my feelings as a man revolt at these inhuman acts against my fellow citizens."

The committee, while gaining little, at least discovered that Mr. Wilson is shocked at these inhuman acts against his fellow citizens. We would never have believed it had the President himself not said it. However, we still await "the word" from the President. "The word" that will be given out for the entire country and not merely for the soft-soaping of the colored citizens. Concededly Mr. Wilson's experience with the late Bishop Walters has taught him that it is dangerous to go on record. His letter of 1912 to Bishop Walters, it may be remembered, assured

"my colored fellow citizens of my earnest wish to see justice done them in every matter, and not mere grudging justice, but justice executed with liberality and cordial good feeling. Every guarantee of our law, every principle of our constitution, commands this and our sympathies should make it easy."

Yet we feel that he, as President, should do no less than Theodore Roosevelt, a private citizen, who denounced the outrages against HIS fellow citizens in no uncertain words and under no limitations of publicity, has done.

## CRIME CONDEMNED.

There seems to be no excuse for the assault and murder of a seven year old little Pearl Nevel last Sunday by Walter Diggs, twenty-nine years old, only that he is a brutal man of brutal nature, low instinct and depraved mind.

That Diggs is a rational being is borne out by the fact that he made a very meager pretense at concealing the crime and the boldness of his confession. Yet in view of the fact that he has been responsible for his acts in the past, he deserves condemnation on the part of public conscience, and the most severe penalty of the law.

The head of Ell Person, who was burned to death in Memphis, Tenn. This head was cut off the body, and is seen here with both ears severed, his nose and upper lip cut off. It was not the work of the mob, but the work of the mob's henchmen, who stood by and saw in broad daylight without any effort to stop the outrage—and yet no one seemed to know the lynchers except the Chicago Defender. No one had a picture, but the combined efforts of the Defender forced landed the above. All came as were NOT broken, as many of these photographs could be bought in the city for a quarter apiece, but were only sold to whites. One friend of the Race got hold of it and sent it to us so the world could know and be convinced that what we printed about the Memphis outrage was true. This head was taken and thrown in Beale street, the district occupied by the business of the Race, by men who make their money off the earnings of the Race.

## U. S. CLAIMS NO JURISDICTION ON LYNCHING.

CHESTER A. SMITH OF BOSTON PUT HUMAN BURNING PARTY UP TO PRESIDENT WILSON AND GETS REPLY FROM DEPT. OF JUSTICE—PRESIDENT DODGES APPEAL.

Mr. Chester A. Smith, 9 Grenville Place, Boston, Mass. Sir: Your letter of the 24th instant to Mr. Tumulty, relative to the burning of a Negro at Memphis, Tennessee, has been referred to this Department. As you must be well aware, the matter is one over which the Federal Government has no jurisdiction. Respectfully, for the Attorney General, WILLIAM C. FITTS, Assistant Attorney General.



## THE TRIUMPH OF LAW IN MEMPHIS.

Some weeks ago we had an article in this column on the unique distinction of Memphis, Tenn., as the most murderous city in the world. We called attention to the number of colored men killed by white men with police or quasi-police powers during the eight or nine days which the writer recently spent in Memphis. We spoke particularly of the shooting and killing of a colored man by a white liquor inspector, who did not even have authority to carry a revolver. The following paragraphs clipped from the "Memphis Press" shows that the officials of that city have taken up this particular case:

*July 24, age 4-5-17*  
S. Y. G. Gerrard, city booze spotter, who was, with his partner, S. D. Wallis, when the latter shot and killed a Negro recently, was tried and found guilty of carrying a pistol, by a jury, in second criminal court, Friday. The jury recommended mercy, when Gerrard explained that his work took him into dark alleys where spotters were none too popular with the denizens.

We see from this that a Memphis jury has gone so far as to find Gerrard guilty of carrying a pistol. We find it difficult to estimate how many years or generations it will be before a Memphis jury will go so far as to find white men guilty of murder, where a Negro is killed; and the fact that the jury recommended the culprit to the mercy of the court makes the calculation still more difficult. Nevertheless, this is a beginning; in fact, it is a verdict so far in advance of all Memphis precedents that we are inclined to hail it as a veritable triumph of the law.

## "GOD'S LAW" IN MEMPHIS

Last week in Memphis the City Club held a meeting at which several of the members tried to get a resolution adopted censuring Sheriff Tate and calling for his resignation. After a heated session of more than two hours' duration the resolution was defeated. George R. James, president of the largest dry goods company in the city, expressed his sympathy with the sentiment that caused Eli Person to be burned at the stake in the following words:

"Public opinion is higher than man-made law; and whenever the law of God and the law of man conflict, the law of man must take a back seat. I believe it is a God-given law that such fiends should be punished with sudden death."

We refrain from taking up the argument that the men who burned Eli Person, and cut off his nose and his ears, and cut out his heart, and performed a dozen other nameless outrages were more fiendish than their victim could ever have been. We quote Mr. James merely to say that we have observed very little of God's law anywhere in Memphis or its vicinity, and express the opinion that the said Mr. James would not know a law of God if he saw it blazed across the sky in electric letters. How could he, with such a heart as he shows himself to possess?

## THREE NEGROES LYNCHED.

Brute nature has broken out again in the south. During the past week, three Negroes have been lynched. The only trial was before "Judge Lynch's Court." As usual none of these murderers will be brought to justice, nor will any attempt be made to even arrest the guilty parties. They say that the acts represent the sentiment of the community and the aroused human nature. Human nature and brute nature are closely allied. The nature which re-

sponds to law and order and abides by those precepts, for the government of society, which human experience has taught are right, may properly be called *human nature*. But the nature which responds to mob passion, and violates law and order, may be properly called *brute nature*. The higher culture the individual possess, the further he is from the brute. So it is with communities: one man commits a crime, it may be a brutal one; a thousand men, in violation of law, mete out summary punishment, to the first brute, but there are a thousand brutes let loose on the community, with no check at all. Such condition is a pretty good showing of the civilization in some parts of America.

## CRISP RETURNED FOR HEARING

### Colored Deputy Takes Prisoner Back to Okmulgee for Trial.

Tulsa, Okla., May 5, 1917.—Steve Grayson, colored deputy sheriff from Okmulgee, came up from that city Monday after his prisoner, Billy Crisp, who about two weeks ago shot and killed a white ranchman, who attempted to kill him. Following the white man's death mob violence was feared at Okmulgee.

Colored men there guarded the jail the first night and the following day Crisp was hurried to Sapulpa for safe keeping. The same night a mob stormed the jail at Okmulgee and became uneasy, the Okmulgee officials had the prisoner removed to the Tulsa county jail for safe keeping. He remained here till Monday night when Deputy Steve Grayson, accompanied by several trusty colored men, took him back to Okmulgee for a preliminary hearing.—Tulsa Star.

The editor thinks that the world ought to know the heroic struggle that the Afro-Americans of Oklahoma and especially eastern Oklahoma are making for liberty and a single justice. For the past twelve months, the editor has gone into all the sections of Oklahoma in the interest of the Oklahoma Educator. Incidentally, he has gathered the facts from men who know and take part in demonstrations of law and order such as was exhibited at Okmulgee, Okla., in 1917, when it was reported that Billy Crisp had killed a white ranchman and that 200 white men from Henryetta would come to Okmulgee to lynch Billy Crisp, and such as was seen at Muskogee, Okla., in 1915, when a mob of several thousand

white people attempted to storm the jail and lynch two black men.

The editor would not give praise to whom praise is due for the reason that he does not think it wise to mention the names of the leaders ever of demonstrations of law and order among our race-variety because we are not dominant and the dominant race-variety especially those who are in power everlastingly hound and harass the leaders of black folk whether or not they are leaders of law and order leagues. The world must know by example that, for the most part, the black men of Oklahoma have set their teeth against the lawless mob and for law and order everywhere in this new state.

Already it has come to such a pass that the sheriff of Okmulgee county could trust Billy Crisp in the hands of his black deputy who took Billy Crisp from Okmulgee to Tulsa and from Tulsa back to Okmulgee on the day of the preliminary trial. The sheriff of Okmulgee county knew two things: First, that Billy Crisp could not get away from his trusted colored deputy and, second, that no lawless cowardly mob could lynch Billy Crisp while he was in the custody of Steve Grayson, the colored deputy.

The editor states that the Afro-Americans of Oklahoma have set their teeth for law and order even if they are not dominant and alone in that matter.

## WHITE SO. BUSINESS CLUBS FIGHT McCALL.

ROTARY CLUB OF CHARLESTON, W. VA. SEND REQUEST TO THE 300 ROTARY CLUBS OF THE U. S. TO PROTEST REFUSAL OF MASS. TO RENDER JOHN JOHNSON TO W. VA.—SHOW HOW WHITE SOUTHERNERS CAMPAIGN.

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 26, 1917.—Protest against the action of Governor McCall in refusing requisition for John Johnson will be forwarded to each of the more than 300 rotary clubs of the United States, it was announced here tonight by the Charleston club. The protest has already been sent to the six rotary clubs of Massachusetts.



# EDITORIAL BRIEFS

## WOMEN WARN WILSON ON LYNCHING SILENCE

**SILENCE ON RACE RIOTS MAY CRIPPLE NATION'S EFFICIENCY FOR EUROPEAN WAR SAY NORTHEASTERN FEDERATION—ROOSEVELT THANKED FOR OUTSPOKEN TALK—MISS CARTER RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT.**

(Daily Advocate, Stamford, Conn., July 20, 1917.)

The Northeastern Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization of Colored women of the Northeast, in convention assembly here, has warned President Wilson that, unless he expresses himself in the matter of the race riots in E. St. Louis, the efficiency of the nation in the European war may be seriously crippled.

The warning is conveyed in a resolution—one of a number—adopted by the convention. It follows:

**Pres. Wilson Appears to Endorse Lynching of Colored.**

"We marvel at the attitude of the President of the United States. He takes official notice of abuses and race discrimination in every part of the civilized world, and yet absolutely ignores appalling riots and murders of citizens of his own country. This silence raises the question whether President Wilson does not actually approve lynching when the victim is Colored. We warn him that continued silence may seriously cripple the efficiency of this Nation in the European war."

**Thank Dallinger, Roosevelt and Others.**

Other resolutions were:

"We thank Representative Dallinger for introducing a bill in Congress to investigate the East St. Louis massacre, also Congressman Dyer of Missouri for a similar investigation. And we thank also Senators Madden and Sherman for the grand stand taken by them in behalf of our race."

"We thank Col. Roosevelt for his outspoken remarks in Carnegie Hall. **Labor Union False Democracy.**

"We condemn Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation of Labor, for saying 'The massacre was real democracy in America.' If that is labor union ideas of democracy, we call it fallacious reasoning."

**Army Color Line by Federal Govt.** "We condemn the Jim Crow corner had for the asking rather than as a precious thing that must be fought by this administration, for and constantly guarded when won."

"We condemn the barring by the administration of Colored men from enlisting in any regiment that needs recruiting, regardless of race as there is no law forbidding such."

"We condemn the exclusion of Col-

ored applicants by the administration from the regular Government Training Camp except the segregated camp.

"We condemn the United States soldiers for aiding the mob in East St. Louis, instead of protecting the helpless."

"We condemn organized labor for denying full fellowship to Colored workers, and then attacking and murdering them when they secure work by which to live."

**Denial of Ballot Race Prejudice.** "We condemn disfranchisement by States, also lynching and the permission of it by the National Government, especially when the country is waging a war for 'world democracy.'"

"We condemn the unchristian and wicked race prejudice against Colored Americans by so many of their white fellow citizens which is injurious to the strength of the country."

"We deplore the silence and inactivity with regard to lynching by persons in authority from the President of the United States down to the mayors of cities."

**Commend Equal Rights League.**

"We commend the National Equal Rights League for its telegram to President Wilson against the Memphis lynching and the East St. Louis massacre; and to Samuel Gompers against the Schenectady strike and the East St. Louis massacre forcing him to commit himself. We endorse the resolution of the Boston branch of the National Equal Rights League on the Labor and Federal phase of the East St. Louis massacre."

**Endorse the Liberty Congress to be Held in December.**

"We commend the National Colored Liberty Conference for its telegram to President Wilson on the East St. Louis massacre, calling it 'the blackest page in America's history' and endorse the movement to have a National Colored Congress for world Democracy at Washington in December and recommend that this body The Northeastern Federation of Women's Clubs, elect delegates to go to Washington to said Congress."

"We condemn the stand taken by the Red Cross in showing their prejudice against the medical unit of our race."

**THAT LYNCHING.**

We have been fearful that the recent notion of "staging" of racial happenings of a certain kind, more or less unpleasant, has not been for the best. We will not think that the stretching of "bad" news across the entire front of the Negro newspapers in any way influenced the mob that dealt with the Negro at Memphis, Tenn. We do think that the white publications of that city, and which spared no pains in flinging wide the "bad" news, did not feel that they should restrain themselves in the matter, since it seemed to be the policy of Negro publications to make capital of every incident of race friction where the white people were the aggressors.

Then, again, our race publications have "staged" or "starred" the exodus, reserving nothing by way of expression, indeed, some going out of their way to stir contemptuous things—wholly uncalled for by the situation. This, perhaps, had nothing to do with the frenzy of that unparalleled mob scene, but it is easy to imagine that it also entered the sum. The white publications, we take it, felt that if Negroes mean to intensify racial feeling, sectional feeling that they will help in the matter. Heretofore the white publications have been careful to say as little as possible concerning such events.

Then, again, our people, many of them, have been careless in their expressions along the line of patriotism. They mean nothing, to be true, but the indifference is construed as nearly criminal at this time. We will have to watch these little points. It will not be to our advantage to wage a war of revenge. It is our duty to enlarge our liberty, chances and so forth, but with the proper spirit. Every white person is not opposed to the Negroes, excepting in a way that we all know and understand. The indifference of patriotism, perhaps, had nothing to do with the frenzy of that mob, but it contributed to the indifference of those white publications that "starred" the mobbing so conspicuously, as much so as if it had been the round-up of the German submarines by the United States navy. It will be noticed that we are trying to fathom the reason for the uncontrolled publicity. There was no sign or hint of regret.

The Memphis Press devoted every inch of its front page of eight columns to the news, with a run-over to other pages. Above its heading of that date, May 23, are the words extending the width of the page: "Ax Murderer Is Burned." Below the heading of the publication are more great streamers. Then follows the details in wide-gauged columns with many sensational sub-heads. Barnum & Bailey's press agent could have rendered no better service. It was a splendid achievement of an idea—getting back at the Negroes—we would think.

We are sorry, indeed, to announce a hanging in these days when our difficulties are perplexing enough without it. Word comes from Fulton, Ky., May 21, that a Negro was taken from the city jail the day previous and hanged to a telephone cable just a few feet from the jail door. The Negro was charged with attacking and seriously wounding a railroad watchman with a razor.

We take it that the happening was merely an incident, and such as may be expected from time to time. This is a charitable view, and perhaps the better way to look at it at this time, rather than thinking of it as a studious policy of advertising racial feeling. The Negroes are strenuously opposed to the lynching of Negroes as a set program. Of course, it is not at all favored, but when it is the incident, or when there are others than Negroes who are victims, it can not be construed a peculiar punishment for Negroes. We are working for laws in common, customs in common, and without which a republic is a republic only in name.

In speaking so generally as it concerns the tragedy, we would not have it appear that the loss of one life by such a method is of small concern. Nothing could be more offensive to the souls of upright men—those who value the country's standing—those who value properly the laws and citizenship—those who deplore the conscious or unconscious effort to create irreparable breaches between the races and which ultimate, as far as those engaged in the "unholy" business is concerned is deadly strife. Happily a few only by contrast find themselves in such business and happier yet is the thought that those engaged are generally of little consequence. Were they of the thoughtful sober classes—the Negroes would need have great fear as to what the end would be.

It will be noticed that the offense was not the kind that has been set down as warranting mob law. And here is also some reason for congratulation. No race wishes to be noted as rapist. And thanks to the saving sense, even to the lowest man down, that charge would not stick. In downing this charge the race did its very best work. The male Negroes were not found to be hell let loose, moral perverts, impulsive beyond the ordinary means of control. They represented the whole business with fine scorn, while they yet shoot and kill as white men do, and for which they sometimes become the victims of the rope. But the ugly charge of criminal assault on white women, the meanest in the calendar of crime, has been set aside—everlastingly set aside. We could better afford to have a hundred men lynched for other crimes rather than have one thus dealt with raping.

We greatly regret that the members of the Kentucky mob so far forgot themselves. The Negroes are sensitive enough, and righteously enough, because of what they have endured. The government at Washington expects patriotism of every citizen, and yet we have these disturbing scenes. It is not enough that men mouth "My country, tis of thee," it should be sung of the soul. But how can men sing from the heart in praise of a thing that they feel to be oppressive and contemptuous? One lynching is not a nation, true enough, nor many



lynchings, yet when these things are permitted to occur as matters of indifference it is no wonder that a spirit of indifference creates in the individual, and which is difficult to warm up to the call of patriotism.

That the evil is lessening as a thing of race persecution is another cause of congratulation. When it levels to where it is merely an incident, and as it happens among the white people there will be no peculiar reason of complaint. Of course, the mission of leading men is not complete here, since they should stand for the law as against mob law; but our mission, that of newspapers and leading men will have ended as specialists in the matter.

## PEABODY SCORES THE RED CROSS

FRIEND WHO GAVE \$1,000 TO ANTI-LYNCHING FUND WILL REFUSE DIVIDENDS TO RED CROSS BECAUSE OF ITS COLOR LINE AND GIVE THEM TO N. A. A. C. P.—A CONSISTENT STAND.

From the Boston Guardian

To the Editor of the Guardian,

Sir:  
I have just read with regret, but without surprise, that the Red Cross persists in carrying out the odious, unreasonable and unjust policy of discrimination against the Negro.

Blames Wilson Administration Because of its hostility to Colored Americans

This is, of course, because their mean discrimination finds much favor among, and is, indeed, I believe, dictated by the highest political authorities of this country, who seem to be so eager to make the world safe for the poor, the weak and the helpless—under the name of democracy—abroad, that the murder of a hundred innocent Negroes at home has not yet been ob-

money equal to the entire amount of Red Cross dividends which may reach me on or before the first day of September.

A Word on the Guardian  
I consider the "Guardian" an excellent, outspoken, but not extreme publication; I hope it will have a long, prosperous and useful life.

Very respectfully,  
Philip G. Peabody.

July 9, 1917, N. B.  
(Editor Trotter takes special pride in the fact that his fight in 1903 first brought Mr. Peabody into the cause of the race. Editor Trotter also thinks the N. A. A. C. P. branches in view of Mr. Peabody's stand should refuse to sew for the Red Cross.)

Editor.

And the next day they not only hanged a Negro, but burned him also, and, too, but as the impression was gaining that old mob law was on its last legs. Well, if the present year shows a smaller total than last year there is yet reason for congratulation. The incidents are unusually disturbing at this time, because of the feeling that the country should present a united front to the enemy. Of course, the race should not go to pieces because of the happenings, yet it would be unnatural if the Negroes yelled so lustily for the country as others do when they have the feeling that the batteries are turned on them. We wish to be fair to the country and also to a race which we belong—in the sense that we can not escape whatever persecution aimed at it. We have said more than once that very few white men are concerned in these demonstrations, and that is true, yet the persistency of the thing—the one thing—has had its effect, perhaps the effect intended; that of estranging the races. It is very unfortunate that we now have such happenings; they greatly distress the more thoughtful Negroes who wish to be in harmony with the country in its days of trial. However, through it all it will be wise to stand unhesitatingly for the country, since we are of the country yet, and enjoying in a great measure those blessings that are enjoyed by others. We sometimes lose sight of this fact, especially after learning of such lawless acts.

"SAUCE FOR THE GANDER," ON "CHIVALRY" OF WHITE SOUTHERNERS.

Every week we read in the papers of the lynching of Colored men who have been accused of assaulting or attempting to assault white women. The South claims that Southern chivalry cannot stand to see white women exposed to the fiendish assaults of black brutes.

This would not be quite so bad if the South were consistent and punished white brutes for fiendishly assaulting black women. Southern chivalry does not go this far, how-

ever, as is instanced in the following cases:—

Miss Cadella Driver of Baltimore, on being insulted and assaulted by a white man in Union Station where she worked was unable to even get a warrant for the man's arrest.

Reuben Bailey, a white man, in Raleigh, N. C., broke into a colored farmer's home and criminally assaulted his wife. The Court allowed Bailey to plead guilty of forcibly entering the house. The court in accepting this plea said, "Let the prisoner pay the Colored woman \$25 and cost of court, and you give a \$100 bond for good behaviour until the September term of court."

Had these men been black and the women white; we would have read of two more lynchings in all probability.

To palliate her crimes the South shelters herself under the plea of chivalry.

## DON'T START IT HERE

A Rockford citizen has called the attention of the Republic to an incident of Sunday wherein five or six white men who have recently come from the south attempted a young Race riot with some local Negroes, telling them that if they had them in the south "they would string them to a tree."

The attitude of the north towards the Negro is not that of the south. It may not be any better in the spirit of it, but suggestions of stringing Negroes to a tree will not be very favorably received here. That may as well be understood now as later. If these men are bent on lynching, it will be better for them to return where courts and juries look with more leniency for cold-blooded murder than they do in Winnebago county.

Our courts and juries have a habit of forgetting the color of a man's skin, and at the same time they do not forget the fact that a citizen is of a bit darker hue than the white man who starts a Race riot. It is not making an impressive appeal to the white man, you just leave the black man alone, or go back where it is safer to string him to a tree. It can't be done in Rockford.—Rockford Daily Republican (white), June 5.

## THOUSANDS LEAVING AFTER

## RECENT LYNCHING

The Dallas Express  
7/7/17

Houston, Texas, July 5.—Last week hundred of colored people left Houston for points in the North. At this writing the employment Agency Office is crowded and over 1,000 will leave in a few days.

Miss Pearl Taylor of Dallas, Texas, is visiting her sister, Mrs. John L. Chumley, 625 Alliston street. Mr. P. L. Blackman of Shreveport, La., visited Houston this week. Mrs. L. T. Prather of Dallas is in the city visiting Miss Edner Banks, 3110 St. Charles street. Lawyer J. Vance Lewis left last week for California. We want more readers for the Express.

You will find copies at Don's Cafe, 715 Prairie avenue or at Mr. Archibald's the agent, 411 1/2 Traves street.



# ST. LOUIS TIMES ENDORSES LYNCHING.

In an editorial of the St. Louis Times, an afternoon paper published in this city, last Tuesday, the editor succeeded in getting of his system an endorsement of the greatest of crimes; the lynching by burning, torturing and dissecting of human beings in Memphis, Tenn., recently.

It seems that the writer had treasured the idea of approving the actions of the mob in the Memphis case every since it happened but lacked the moral courage to do so. Now, that the kidnapping and murdering of Baby Keet of Springfield and the subsequent seizing, torturing by mob, some of the members of the alleged gang of kidnapers, The Times seized the opportunity to express its approval of the horrible lynching of a Negro, near Memphis, some weeks ago.

After having said in this editorial that mobs are true to human nature, and how the mob spirit may seize upon those who are respecters of the law, The Times continues, "In neither the Tennessee nor the Missouri case will the members of the leaders the mob be arranged by law. They represent public feeling, and that sentiment still effectually indorses and upholds them. At the bottom of things, they represented justice, if not law. No one passionately defends lynching, and in cool blood all of us theoretically denounce mob violence. But it will not be asserted that Memphis and Springfield mobs did not act as the agents of public opinion, or that the outraged instincts which their deeds reflected were not secretly those of an overwhelming majority."

Just why the Negro had to be brought into this kidnapping case, leaves room for much thought. Does the editor of The Times think because a Lynching Bee was organized at Springfield the Negro should be the victim; and in order to make the story popular, the Memphis case should be mentioned? Is it possible that the editor of The Times is not above the level of the common mob? If mob violence is popular among the masses, is the editor of The Times a man who runs and howls with the crowd because it is easy? We despise mob violence in any form, particularly because the Negro race is the principal victim of the cowardly crowd that always seeks to strike and hide its hands behind numbers.

He who condones the mob spirit is "sowing to the wind."

## The St. Louis Star

On the same afternoon The St. Louis Star in an editorial took the only wise and sensible view with reference to the mob. After telling of the rope around the neck of one of the alleged kidnapers, and the more than "third degree" methods used in an effort to extort a confession of guilt from one of their victims, The Star continues, "The horrors and infamy of the police third degree have often been condemned, but here was a third degree beyond anything the police of any city have ever done. This man was surrounded by angry, shouting men, he was beaten in the face with the noose of the rope brought with which to hang him. He was buffeted and pulled about and lied to and finally actually choked with the noose until black in the face, in the effort to terrorize him into confession.

It is probable that four out of five innocent men under such treatment would have said or done something to deepen the belief in their guilt and would have been strung up to die. This was the fifth man. His iron nerve saved him. Having that nerve, he might have held out while guilty as well as innocent. The record is against the truth of admissions made under torture and in a state of fear or nervous collapse. It was a brutal deed, not justified even if the victim had been guilty. What possible justification is there for such treatment of an innocent man, even though not free from criminal taint?"

The above statement coming from the St. Louis Star is quite a contrast to that coming from The Times. It shows the difference in the character of the two editors. Let the thinking public be the judge.

As The Star has so eloquently said, "Four out of five innocent

men would have made some kind of confession under the circumstances; and as we look over the catalogue of lynching and read the stories of alleged confessions of the victims and as the pictures come into our minds of the dual position, in which the accused is placed; and knowing as we do that so few men have the iron nerve to die rather than change; we stand aghast to think that an editor of a metropolitan daily like The St. Louis Times is not able to see that mob violence is dangerous at every stage of the game.

## "BLAME IT ON A BLACK MAN!"

Not even colored citizens themselves have ever suspected that they were the victims of such monstrous injustice at the hands of detectives private and public, as the present startling expose of the Burns Detective Agency's methods is now revealing. A. B. Owens, the former Burns' agent, on the stand last week declared that his superiors ordered him to get Conley's wife in Atlanta to swear that Conley murdered Mary Phagan and that Leo Frank, her employer, was innocent. He testified that his employers also ordered him to have the Carman maid perjure herself. In both these cases the colored women refused to perjure themselves. The question arises how many innocent black men's lives have been sworn away at the hands of witnesses brow-beaten and bribed by the Burns' detectives? How many have gone to the gallows and electric chair for the crimes of others at the hands of the other detective agencies? How many hundreds more throughout the country each year get the extreme penalty at the hands of public detectives and policemen for the crimes of Caucasians. Until some semblance of civilization and justice reigns throughout the South neither redress nor calculation can be had of the unnumbered hosts of black men railroaded or fiendishly murdered by mobs there. The degenerate cracker, either blacked up or unmasked, in the lonely back woods of the South, in nine cases out of ten, commits or attempts to commit the unmentionable crime for which black men give up their lives generally via the lynchers' noose. Not less frequently does the white woman there, caught in a compromising position by her husband or sweetheart, blame it on a "burly black man," whom other witnesses quickly come forward to swear they saw "prowling about the neighborhood." No redress can now be had for the murder of innumerable innocent blacks by the South every year. But there can be and there should be a rigid country-wide investigation of this manifest policy on the part of detectives to saddle crimes upon colored men. Wherever a colored man is convenient the white culprit and his defenders immediately saddle it upon him. It was true not only in the Frank case and in the famous slashing case at the Aiken, S. C., colony of New York society folk, but in the Carman and other celebrated cases too numerous to mention. Rarely in such circumstances does the white criminal ever expiate his crime. He goes back into society to repeat again and again his crimes, to demoralize throughout his life white society. The punishment of the innocent black man is set down in the calendar of his race's crime, to substantiate the lie about the high percentage of its excessive criminality. The Burns' Agency's operations, with those of the others, should be searched from the beginning, not only out of justice to the black race, but for the good of Caucasian society as well. All those found guilty of subornation of perjury should be given the limit of the law as an example to all other such high criminals. For the good of all, the safe and popular alternative of "Blame it on the black man" should be made unsafe and unpopular. The sooner the better.

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## THE MASK THROWN OFF.

We have received a copy of the "Scimitar" of February 1, 1917. The "Scimitar" is a semi-monthly published at Abbeville, S. C. Under its title head, the "Scimitar" carries several mottoes which read as follows: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," "The Scimitar is a free lance. It wears no man's collar." "All coons look alike to me." The leading article in this particular number was a long editorial entitled "The Caucasian Ueber Alles," which was written to influence the grand jury of Abbeville county not to indict the men who had been arrested and charged with the lynching of Anthony Crawford. *New York Age. 4/5/17.*

All the regular readers of The Age are familiar with the case of Anthony Crawford, the wealthy colored farmer of Abbeville who was brutally lynched because he had passed the lie with a white man in a dispute over the price of cottonseed. After the lynching a dozen or so white men were arrested upon two charges: murder and rioting in the streets. Abbeville is a small town of less than 5000 inhabitants. A town in which everybody knows everybody else. A town in which it is impossible for anybody to be and remain a stranger for more than twenty-four hours. Crawford was lynched in the streets of the town in broad daylight. So there is absolutely no question of the fact that it was well known who the leaders of the mob were. These leaders were arrested and brought before the grand jury, but the verdict in answer to both charges was "Not guilty!" The only thing "proved" was that Anthony Crawford came to his death at the hands of unknown persons.

It is only fair to say that Governor Manning did make some effort to secure a conviction of the men accused of this crime. He went so far as to summon the jury commissioners to Columbia, the capital. Concerning this action of the Governor, the "Scimitar" had this to say:

He summoned the Charleston jury commissioners to appear before him to confer as to the drawing of juries in liquor cases to be tried there, on a former occasion. Now he wantonly invades the jury box at Abbeville, seeking a means to convict white men accused of lynching an insolent Negro.

Such conduct is in keeping with the man who as governor appointed Negroes to office, and as lay delegate to the council tried to create a Negro bishop in the white Episcopal church. Such a man would humiliate if possible the county that spewed him, but he reckons without his host, the jury commissioners are not subservient to his will, nor blinded by the glamour of the office he disgraces.

The above paragraphs are merely an introduction to the arguments which the editor of the "Scimitar" used to create a sentiment in Abbeville county that would demand a verdict of "Not guilty!" for the men accused of lynching Anthony Crawford. Arguments to stir up and kindle the most brutish instinct and sentiments of the white people of the community.

This editor, after a long review of slavery from his social, economic and industrial point of view, leads up to and lays down the following doctrine of white supremacy:

Now our ingrained doctrine of "white supremacy" don't merely mean that the highest social caste of white men shall be above the

highest social caste of Negroes. That would leave a vacant place in the social line to be filled only by a rich Negro, who could meet the social demands with a lavish purse. As I understand it, and we have all been taught from infancy, it means that the lowest white man in the social scale is above the Negro who stands highest by the same measurement.

Now, what is the worst thing about this Southern White Man's Creed, as laid down by the editor of the "Scimitar?" Is it that it is unjust? Is it that it is cruel? Is it that it is brutal? No, the worst thing about it is that it is true. Soften it down as much as you like, yet you cannot cover up the bald, naked truth that this creed operates as law. The fact cannot be hid that in the uncivilized states no matter how honest, how industrious, how law-abiding, how cultured, how wealthy a Negro may be, his fundamental rights are secondary to the rights of white men of all classes. There may have been exceptions here and there, but the exceptions only prove the rule.

The editor of the "Scimitar" goes on further to expound the Creed of White Supremacy, and to urge white men to throw off the mask. He charges them with having hypocritically pandered to Northern investors by simply acquiescing in a non-enforced constitutional guarantee of equality to Negroes, then killing the Negroes for attempting to live up to this guarantee. He charges that Southern white men have covered up their acts of violence by tales in the press—for Northern consumption—to the effect that "it was done by irresponsible parties," and that "the best white people don't approve of it." He goes on to say:

That is a lie! a hypocritical cowardly lie! and should be stopped for the shame of it. The "best people" of South Carolina know that when white men cease to whip, or kill Negroes who become obnoxious, that they will take advantage of the laxity, and soon make this state untenable for whites of all kinds, and that under such conditions the "best" will be "like the worst, and the worst like the best." The point here made is, that no matter who actually killed Crawford, the responsibility for his death rests upon us all alike, and because of his own reckless course, due to chest inflation from wealth, it was inevitable and racially justifiable.

Here is still further elucidation of the doctrine of white supremacy as preached and practiced in Abbeville and vicinity—not given in abstract terms, but in the personal terms of the writer:

If a Negro should insult me, as a white man, the community would expect me to forceably resent it. Because the ruling sentiment demands that all white men must do so, for our mutual protection. If I did that and the Negro beat me instead, then the community, this community, any community, whether they liked me or not, would be forced to beat the Negro to show others that they must not strike a white man. If he resisted and fought back they would kill him. That is the case of Anthony Crawford, and it will be the same with any other Negro in any community who dares to raise his hand against white men, no matter what the immediate cause.

In summing up his plea for the acquittal of the men charged with the mob murder of Anthony Crawford, this defender of white supremacy in South Carolina said:

Suppose these accused men in this case are convicted of riot, which the court will attempt to do. That will be equivalent to the state saying to the Negroes, through the action of a jury, go ahead and talk to white men as you please, no words justify a blow and if a white man strikes you for doing so, prosecute him and he will be punished.

## STANLEY AGAIN STOPS LYNCHING *The American News* Kentucky's Governor Saves Two Colored Men From Mob Violence

Frankfort, Ky., Aug. 21.—For the second time within a year Governor Stanley has intervened to save colored men from mob violence.

Jim Howard and Harry Porter were arrested at Mayfield, Ky., charged with having killed William Romaine, a Paducah policeman, with his own revolver last Sunday. It was reported to Governor Stanley that threats to lynch the two men had been made on the streets of Paducah when it was learned they had been captured. He at once wired McCracken County officials urging them not to insist on the return of the prisoners to Paducah at this time.

It is reported Howard and Porter have been taken to the Eddyville State Prison under orders from Judge James H. Lang of McCracken County.

Other advices from Paducah say the officials in taking the two men from Mayfield eluded a party of men which had started in automobiles for Paducah to Mayfield.

That is why Crawford is dead now. His wealth and coddling from white men desiring his trade, emboldened him to assume an equality that the whites will not tolerate.

If these men are convicted of anything, the Negroes, in view of the fool meetings that have been held, and by a false translation of the vapors thereof, will be encouraged to "sass" white people, then more Negroes will dangle from the pine tree at the baseball park at the lower end of a rope.

Men of Abbeville the eyes of white men are upon you. Acquit yourselves as white men. The conditions made by us all, make us all responsible, so let's not ask only eight to shoulder the whole burden. Answer a mawkish sentiment generated by hypocrisy and craven fear with the ringing verdict, Not guilty!



## THE DISTINCTION OF MEMPHIS.

It is usual to teach in our public schools what the various states and the important cities of the country are famous for. We wonder how many pupils in the grammar schools or even in the high schools could answer right off and tell what it is that gives Memphis, Tennessee, its chief distinction, not only among the cities of the United States, but among the cities of the world.

Some smart scholar might jump to the conclusion that Memphis, situated on the great Mississippi River, gains its chief distinction as a cotton market. Memphis is a great cotton market, but there are other cities in the country and in the world that are great.

No, there is one thing for which Memphis stands out, unsurpassed and unrivaled among all the cities of the world. **Memphis, Tennessee, is the most murderous city on earth.** The gruesome human sacrifice which was performed there recently merely caps a record for the killing of human beings that the city has held for years against all contestants.

This is not a charge we are making against Memphis; we are simply making an admission of its pre-eminence. But for fear some may think the awarding of such a palm should be backed up by proof, we submit the following figures, which are in accord with the record covering years:

Statistics show that in 1915 the number of homicides in some of the larger cities of the United States were: Memphis, 122; New Orleans 83; Atlanta 64; San Francisco 75; Chicago 211; New York 186; Boston 37; Milwaukee 14. When it is taken into consideration that the population of Memphis is 150,000, of New Orleans 400,000, of Atlanta 200,000, of San Francisco 550,000, of Chicago 2,500,000, of New York 5,500,000, of Boston 800,000 and of Milwaukee 450,000, we find the rate at which human beings were killed in the above cities during the year 1915 to be as follows: for every 100,000 population there were killed in Memphis 81.3 persons, in Atlanta 20.7 persons, in New Orleans 20.7 persons, in San Francisco 13.6 persons, in Chicago 8.4 persons, in New York 3.3 persons, and in Milwaukee 3 persons. That is, in Memphis there were killed, approximately two and a half times as many persons as in Atlanta; four times as many as in New Orleans; six times as many as in San Francisco; eight times as many as in Chicago; twenty times as many as in Boston and twenty-seven times as many as in New York and Milwaukee.

This state of things caused Attorney-General Hunter Wilson of Shelby County, to remark a few weeks ago:

**"Human life is cheaper in Memphis than beefsteak."**

Of course, the above figures do not take into consideration quasi-legal killings; that is, the Negroes killed in a city like Memphis by policemen, detectives, night watchmen, inspectors, spotters, etc. yet a just investigation would show that in nine cases out of ten such killings are nothing less than murder.

The writer was in Memphis a short while ago for a period of nine days, and there was an average of nearly one Negro killed every day for the time he was there; killed by white men exercising some sort of police power. On the day of his arrival, a white liquor seller, who did not even have authority to carry a pistol, killed a Negro and the papers reported that the Negro had both hands up and was begging for his life at the time he was shot to death. There were one or two killings in the next five or six days, and on the eighth day the police brought the average up by killing three Negroes in one day. Two of these men were suspected of having robbed a grocery store and the other was being arrested on charge that he had not registered under the new conscription law; although, as he continued to protest, he was more than thirty-one years of age.

These three killings were so inexcusable, so cold-blooded and brutal that they brought from the Memphis Commercial Appeal the following editorial in its issue of June 16:

### OUR KILLING OFFICERS.

Killing Negroes by policemen is no credit to the efficiency of the department.

One of the killings seems to be without any color of an excuse. The other seems to have been a display of want of good police sense.

This business was practically stopped a few years ago, but of late there has been renewal. Any armed officer, having both a club and a gun, ought to be able to make an arrest without having to commit murder.

Courageous, intelligent and level-headed policemen seldom have to make a threat.

It is easy after one is dead to trump up a story about how desperate he was and how he was a professional bad man.

An excuse for the double killing was that the men were desperate highwaymen and burglars.

The age of the victims show the inconsistency of this assertion. Boys under 20 years are not ordinarily so desperate that they fight to the death before surrendering.

If officers can only serve as accelerators of the homicide record of Memphis it would be better if they were all discharged.

The terrible showing made by Memphis, Atlanta and New Orleans in comparison with Chicago, Boston and New York brings the plea from the southern cities that their higher homicide rate is due to the presence of their greater Negro population. In a way, this is true. The Negro is really indirectly responsible, partly because he himself does some of the killing, but in a much larger measure, because he furnishes so many victims. If the blood-thirsty white men of these cities did not have so many handy victims around whom they can kill without any fear of punishment, there is no doubt that the homicide rate would be lower.

Now, what is true of Memphis and of Atlanta and New Orleans in comparison with Chicago, Boston and New York is proportionately true of the United States in comparison with the other countries of the world. The United States is the most lawless of all the great countries of the world. Let us look at a few more figures.

Statistics covering a period of ten years show that for every 100,000 of population, the number of homicides in various countries were as follows: in the United States 5.91, in Italy 3.77, in Germany 2.05, in England 0.85, in Japan 0.65. To put it another way, the homicides in Christian America were nine times the number in heathen Japan.

Consideration of these figures make it appear that putting down lawlessness in the United States is about as urgent a job as fighting to make democracy safe for the world.

### THREE NEGROES LYNCHED.

Brute nature has broken out again in the south. During the past week, three Negroes have been lynched. The only trial was before "Judge Lynch's Court." As usual none of these murderers will be brought to justice, nor will any attempt be made to even arrest the guilty parties. They say that the acts represent the sentiment of the community and the aroused human nature. Human nature and brute nature are closely allied. The nature which responds to law and order and abides by those precepts, for the government of society, which human experience has taught are right, may properly be called *human* nature. But the nature which responds to mob passion, and violates law and order, may be properly called *brute* nature. The higher culture the individual possess, the further he is from the brute. So it is with communities: one man commits a crime, it may be a brutal one; a thousand men, in violation of law, mete out summary punishment, to the first brute, but there are a thousand brutes let loose on the community, with no check at all. Such condition is a pretty good showing of the civilization in some parts of America.

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## ELL PERSON'S GUILT.

Three months ago the country was horrified by the news of the burning alive of a Negro, Ell Person, at Memphis, Tenn. Six weeks later the human burnt sacrifice at Memphis was driven out of the public mind by the massacre at East St. Louis. No doubt to a great many people the name of Ell Person, although it is an unusual one, would mean nothing now. Ell Person and what the Memphians did to him just three months ago are among the forgotten things of the past.

Nevertheless, this week's issue of the New Republic contains a reminder in the form of a letter from Mr. Bolton Smith of Memphis. Shortly after the lynching—if such a mild term may be used—the New Republic intimated in an editorial that there was "no real proof whatever." It is to correct this opinion that Mr. Smith writes his letter. He begins by saying:

Mr. Hunter Wilson, the county prosecuting officer, known with us as Attorney-General, informs me that there can be no question of the guilt of Ell Person, that he not only confessed to the officers here, but also to those in Nashville, in whose charge he was left when the Sheriff took him to the penitentiary to protect him from the mob. The criminal accompanied our officers to the place where the crime was committed and pointed to a pool of water in which he told them he had thrown the ax after committing the murder. It was ten feet deep and full of muddy water. A Negro swimmer was employed who dived; and, after examining the bottom for some time, found the ax and brought it to the surface. There were other facts such as the finding of his blood-spattered shoes at the place where he said he had had them, which I need not go into. Such a confession, when confirmed by facts such as these, would be considered adequate evidence of guilt in any court in Christendom.

Before we go any further I want to say that I learned something about Bolton Smith while I was in Memphis investigating the Ell Person case. Mr. Smith is a Northern man who has lived in the South for more than thirty years. He is one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Memphis. He is undoubtedly about as fair and brave on the Negro question as a white man could be, and still live in Memphis with safety and in the enjoyment of the respect of his fellow citizens. It was Bolton Smith who tried shortly after the burning to get a resolution adopted by the City Club of Memphis demanding the resignation of Sheriff Tate. Yet, in spite of his relative fairness and courage, he entirely ignores many of the truths that are well known in Memphis and that throw a doubt on Ell Person's guilt.

Ell Person is alleged to have made a confession, a confession wrung from him by the "third degree." And the "third degree" practiced by Memphis police upon a Negro arrested on such a charge might well be put down as the thirty-third degree. Even so, Person never did confess nor was ever alleged to have confessed to anything but murder. And he was indicted only for murder. The girl Antoinette Rappal had been brutally assaulted. The question as to who committed the assault has never been answered.

As to the bloody ax and shoes and clothing, the following paragraph from the Memphis Press of May 8, and printed in heavy type on the front page settles all question:

### NO BLOOD IS ON CLOTHES AND AX.

"City Chemist Mantell reported this afternoon that he had failed to find any blood on the trousers, shoes or ax of Ell Person, confessed murderer of Antoinette Rappal."

This fact is known in Memphis, if not in other parts of the country, that for days there was a split between the sheriff's office and the city detective force on the theory of the crime; the detectives holding that the criminal was a white man. Let us go right to Memphis for confirmation of this fact. The following paragraphs appeared in the Commercial Appeal of May 5:

### DETECTIVES ON CASE.

#### Are Working on Theory That White Man Committed Crime.

"Brunner and Hoyle, city detectives, who were assigned to assist the sheriff's office in investigating the Rappal murder mystery, have thus far kept their discoveries to themselves. It is understood at detective headquarters that they are working on the theory that a white man, and not a Negro may have committed the crime. \* \* \*

"There are some circumstances that bear out this theory. The girl's

bicycle, when it was found, was leaning against a tree only a hundred feet or so from the bridge and the public road. The basket in front contained her school apron, her books, a package of lunch and a small bouquet of flowers. The officers argue that if the girl had been seized as she was riding that these articles would have been thrown from the basket, and the wheel would probably have been dragged away and thrown out of sight. \* \* \*

"A handkerchief was found nearby. It did not belong to the girl. Yesterday the sheriff found a white coat, such as barbers or waiters wear. It was some distance away and bore no bloodstains. No Negro, it is argued, would have such a coat. Few Negroes of the class to which the two suspects who are in custody belong ever carry a white handkerchief." \* \* \*

Even the yellow journal of Memphis, The Press, the paper that did so much to keep the lynching spirit fanned to a flame, printed in its columns the clues that pointed to a white man as the criminal. The following paragraph appeared in The Press of May 7:

"Indications, according to city detectives, point to the fact that Antoinette Rappal left the Macon Road voluntarily on the morning that she was murdered. \* \* \*

"The condition of the bicycle would point to the fact that the girl was not dragged from the embankment from her wheel, for the bicycle is not scratched, nor marked as though it had been dragged. Sleuths say it looks as though it had been placed carefully against the clump of swamp willows where it was found.

"Certainly no white girl would permit a Negro to lure her into such a place, the detectives reason. A white man, known to her, would excite no such suspicion in her mind.

"They are backed in their white man theory by Dr. Lee A. Stone, resigned head of the Associated Charities, and local practicing physician. Dr. Stone claims that the deed unquestionably is the crime of a white man. He terms the man a necrophilia—one whose object would first be the death of his victim. He also states that in medical history certain abnormal men have been found who first kill their victims. Such cases are quite numerous in criminal annals, Dr. Stone says:

"It is practically a certainty," Dr. Stone said, "that this terrible crime has been committed by a white man."

There are many reasons to doubt that Ell Person was guilty of assaulting the Rappal girl. To sum them up:

First of all, the crime itself did not bear the earmarks of a "Negro" crime. Negroes guilty of the most lustful crimes are known never to mutilate their victims. This was not a crime of primitive lust, but of over-civilized degeneracy. Again, Person was a man about fifty years of age. He was never legally accused of assaulting the Rappal girl, he was not even alleged to have confessed to assault, and he was not indicted for assault. Again, none of the tangible clues, the handkerchief, the white vest, the fresh automobile tracks found in this desolate spot were followed up; the theory of the city detectives was ignored and their efforts to solve the mystery hampered; the Sheriff was opposed to any other idea than that a Negro committed the crime. I have not space to include the clue of a "strange acting" white man dressed in white duck coat and pants who was seen in a neighboring town twelve hours after the commission of the crime, and before the deed was known. This man had a queer conversation with the telegraph operator in this town, all of which was reported in the Memphis papers. He disappeared, and has not been heard of since.

The reasonable doubt of Ell Person's guilt would have made lynching by even such methods as hanging or shooting inexcusable.

### WE CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT.

With Memphis and its orgy of a burnt human sacrifice more fiendish than could be devised by any heathen people on earth still fresh in our memory; with East St. Louis and its slaughter of men and women whose only crime was seeking for honest ways of earning their bread; now, when the United States is sending men to fight and die in order to end atrocities upon the high seas, in Belgium, in Serbia and in Armenia, we call upon President Wilson to say a word, at least, against the atrocities practiced by Americans upon American citizens.

*St. Louis argues*





"My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty."

## WILL WE HANG TOGETHER OR CONTINUE TO HANG SEPARATELY?

When Eli Persons was tortured and burned by white fiends on May 22 in Memphis, Tenn., it was not merely a helpless colored man that was murdered by mob law. The crime committed was not against an individual alone, but against the entire race of the mob-murdered man.

It might easily have been any other of twelve million colored people. It could have been YOU, or your son, your mother or your wife, your brother or your husband. Any one of us! In Tennessee or in any other State!

Eli Persons was not atrociously tortured and murdered because he was an alleged self-confessed murderer, but because he was a friendless black man. White men are rarely lynched in the South. A mob is the most cowardly thing on earth, in air or sea, and the fear that the victim's friends might in turn become lynchers is a powerful deterrent to the lynching of white men. No such fear exists in the case of the colored man. The crackers know that the colored man will only talk his head off and there let the matter drop. They know that cowards as they are they have the colored man bluffed to a standstill. They are quite aware that the most that will result from the inhuman wrongs committed against the race will be mass-meetings, outbursts of rhetoric and oratory, with perhaps a naive request to the Southern head of the nation that troops be dispatched to stamp out lawlessness in his dearly loved and much admired Southland.

The white mob strikes with impunity at the colored race because the white Southerner knows the colored man will talk, talk, talk where others would ACT! He often sees colored men in the mob as idle witnesses to a crime in which they themselves may be the next victims. He rarely sees such a display of courage as that of the colored chauffeur who tore in shreds a flag that in his opinion never exercises its power and authority to protect him and his.

The question aroused by the savage murder of Eli Persons is not what will the President do, not even what will the North say? It is first and last, WHAT WILL THE COLORED MAN DO ABOUT IT? That and no other is the real question! On the white man's head the sin, but in our hands must be the saving power!

The colored race should protest, not only to the President, but to the entire Nation, to the world. But protest without action would be as ineffective now as in the past. We are all loyal Americans. We are all sympathizers with the fight to make "democracy safe for

the world." But before we help to make democracy safe for Europe WE MUST MAKE IT SAFE TO LIVE IN AMERICA, therefore, until this latest crime is punished, until guarantees are given against the repetition of such crimes and against any kind of organized prejudice or unpunished terrorism, let every colored man, woman and child go on a national protest. We do not advise that they stand aloof from all war preparations; or that they put away in camphor balls the flags and the bunting now so generously displayed in all of the colored residential districts, or that the orchestras in the colored theatres and at all colored social affairs stop the playing of the national anthem. But make it a world-wide and effective protest. Arouse the better class of Americans and all the people of the world to the intolerable conditions in the South. The colored man has a country to defend, it is true, and he would be the last to consider collusion with the enemy, but if the white savages of the South are allowed to continue their murderous attacks on colored life and property it might very possibly and at no far distant date be INCONSEQUENTIAL WHETHER WE HAVE A COUNTRY OR NO. CHARRED BONES SCATTERED TO THE WINDS WILL NOT BE PARTICULAR ABOUT THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE.

## ROOSEVELT ON LYNCHING

There is no little disappointment among colored people that Colonel Theodore Roosevelt has not seen fit to speak out loud and bold against the increasing menace of the lynching evil. We do not believe that the Italian, Russian or Jewish race could have been so outraged as has the black race in this country since our war began against Germany without Colonel Roosevelt and all other far-seeing patriots rising in protest. The spirit of justice and fair play welling within their breasts, the vital need of squelching race feeling and antagonism at this crucial time would have prompted them forthwith to denounce the outrage and its perpetrators. Yet no less than ten colored men have been lynched since the break with Germany; the most revolting, inhuman burning at the stake with ten thousand unmasked white citizens as the mob took place a few days ago in broad daylight and no American statesman feels that the twelve million black Americans who have been wounded are of sufficient consequence to speak out against the injury and injustice done them. Arthur I. Hart wrote to Colonel Roosevelt, asking for his protest against these grievous wrongs done the race, to which Colonel Roosevelt replied that he had frequently denounced lynching and he could not do any more. We do not believe that Colonel Roosevelt properly appreciates the unrest and discontent in the minds of the younger generations of black Americans. These lynchings and burnings, disfranchisement and jim-crowism are building brush fires in the backyard of the American people. It is hypocrisy, they believe, for the American people to preach democracy and shoot into Europe and to condone and practice a bloody despotic race autoeracy in America. These things will not down of themselves. Charity must begin at home.

## SAW LYNCHING TORE UP FLAG

Now John Burlingame, Colored Chauffeur, Will Be Prosecuted for Lack of Patriotism.

## TENNESSEE DISGRACES ITSELF

Mob Cuts Off Eli Pearson's Head and Then Burns Him to the Stake—Lynching Witnessed by Nearly Six Thousand Persons—Officers of the Law Gave Him Little Protection.

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)

Memphis, Tenn.—After a mob had burned at the stake Eli Pearson, accused of criminal assault, John Burlingame, a colored chauffeur, seized an American flag from an automobile he was driving and cried to several Negroes who had witnessed this act of barbarism:

"Come on boys! We are through! Let's join the Germans!"

Then he tore up the flag. He was seized by a dozen men who started to lynch him for manifesting lack of patriotism.

Officers, who claimed to be unable to protect Pearson from the mob took Burlingame in custody and turned him over to the Federal authorities. He will be prosecuted.

The lynching of Eli Pearson occurred near Memphis and was witnessed by thousands. Before he was burned his head was cut off.

Five thousand armed men were



in the mob. In addition hundreds of persons from Memphis who heard that Pearson was in the mob's hands rushed to the scene. Their automobiles were formed in a large circle and Pearson was burned in the centre of it.

Pearson was taken from Deputies at Potts Camp Monday night. Seventy-five men surrounded the train on which he was being taken to Memphis for trial and forced the officers to give him up, which they did without protest.

Before Pearson was tied to the tree he was mutilated and tortured. Some in the mob proposed shooting him before setting fire to his body.

## GERMAN WARFARE.

ing Meeting in Tremont  
tional Law for Lynchers—

Johnson Case

*The Guardian*  
Dec 17  
FUND FOR JOHN JOHNSON INCREASED BY OVER \$100.00 AT GREAT ANTI-LYNCHING MEETING.—USE FEDERAL TROOPS IF NECESSARY, SAYS EPISCOPAL BISHOP TO STOP LYNCHING—DR. CONRAD, REP. SWIG, ATTORNEY KATZEFF, MR. GULESIAN, REV. SHAW, DR. RUSSELL AND MR. BRIGHAM URGE FEDERAL ACTION LYNCHING AND DEMAND THAT JOHN JOHNSON BE SAVED THROUGH COURTS.

The anti-lynching mass meeting in Lorimer Hall, Tremont Temple is epitomized in the following brief report of the Boston Post of yesterday, Dec 14, 1917:—

The early enactment of a federal law against lynching and its enforcement if necessary with the full armored power of the national government, was advocated last night at an anti-lynching meeting held in Lorimer Hall, by the Right Rev. S. G. Babcock, suffragan bishop of Massachusetts; the Rev. A. Z. Conrad, pastor of the Park street church; M. A. Gulesian, Representative Simon Swig and Morris Katzeff. The speakers' remarks were loudly applauded by more than 400 members of the Equal Rights League, under whose auspices the meeting was held.

Resolutions were passed commending Governor McCall's action in refusing the extradition of John Johnson to West Virginia and \$125 in cash and over \$75 in subscriptions were raised for the defence of Johnson in the courts. Other speakers were the Rev. M. A. N. Shaw and Dr. A. P. Russell.

## THE CASE REVERSED.

The papers of Augusta, Ga., of a recent date carry the report of a very serious crime alleged to have been committed by Albert Clark, a county baliff. Clark for several months has been acting as night watchman to guard a quantity of contraband whiskey stored in the courthouse. The crime with which he is charged is assault with attempt to commit rape upon a colored woman.

Briefly stated, the story of the woman is as follows: The officer accosted her as she was passing through the courthouse grounds about 10 o'clock at night and asked her if she wanted a drink. She went into the building and Clark produced a half-pint bottle of whiskey. He drank a part of it and gave her the balance. He then went into an adjoining room where he said he would hide the bottle to prevent "the boss from finding out that he had been drinking in the courthouse." She was about to leave the building when Clark made improper proposals to her. Upon her refusal, he beat her with his pistol.

The white officer's story is, naturally, somewhat different and runs like this: He found the woman trying to enter the courthouse and when he asked her what she wanted, she replied that she was looking for some whiskey. He found it necessary to strike her several times to make her leave the premises, and when she did leave she told him she was going to the police barracks and swear that he had tried to commit rape upon her.

The woman, Katie Frederick, did go immediately to the police barracks and tell her story, and when Clark was questioned he told his. Now, no twelve sane men would need to hesitate three minutes between these stories, just as they stand, to judge who was telling the truth; but there was still further evidence to corroborate the story told by the woman.

After Katie had related her story at police headquarters in the presence of the sheriff, the sheriff proceeded to the courthouse to talk with Clark. Clark told his side of the affair as related above, but on being further interrogated he admitted to the sheriff that he had opened the door to find out what the woman wanted, and also that he had given her a drink of whiskey; he, however, declared that she got no farther than the corridor of the basement floor and that he had to resort to violence to make her leave the building. Nevertheless, the sheriff found drops of blood on the second floor corridor and according to the woman's story, it was on the second floor that the officer assaulted her.

Clark told a clumsy story. His yarn about a colored woman trying to break into the courthouse to get a drink of contraband whiskey, and about how he defended that whiskey by clubbing the woman over the head with his revolver was too absurd for consideration even by a Georgia sheriff; so he was arrested. But he was not kept in jail very long, for the same paper gives the account of the alleged crime also reports that Mr. Clark is out on bond.

It is needless to make any comment on the character of Katie Frederick. Even if she did not attempt to break into the courthouse to get at the whiskey stored there, she did, according to her

own confession go up into the building and accept a drink from the bailiff, so she cannot be held up as any model of virtue. But that is entirely aside from the point. By the laws of humanity and by the laws of every country a woman of the worst character has the same rights over her body that the purest woman can claim.

From all appearances here is a reverse case of the "usual crime," and we are going to watch closely to see what the courts of Georgia are going to do about it. Here is a case which should be closely watched and followed by the colored people of Augusta. It will not do to let it slide by with the excuse that the woman was this or that. If this case is not decided according to the law and the facts, simply because Katie Frederick is colored, no colored woman under the jurisdiction of that court could be certain of receiving better consideration.

*New York Age, 4/5/17*  
There will be those, even in our own race, who will say and feel that this is not a true statement of conditions; that the opinions expressed by the editor of the "Scimitar" do not accord with the sentiment of the best element of white people in Abbeville. Grant that they do not accord with the sentiment of the best element, what difference does that make? The fact stands out that they accord with the prevailing sentiment of Abbeville, and the proof is that, in spite of the governor of South Carolina and the "best element" of Abbeville county, the men known to have murdered Anthony Crawford could not be convicted.

We should take all the comfort and help possible from the sentiment of the "best element," but there is no sense in deceiving ourselves. The sentiment of the "best element" is not the prevailing sentiment of the South. The sentiment of the editor of the "Scimitar" is the prevailing sentiment, and it is the sentiment we must contend against; for the only life worth living for us in this country depends upon whether or not we can destroy it.

Then let us not delude ourselves. Let us not dose ourselves with soothing syrups or opiates. Let us be sensible and brave enough to look the naked truth square in the face, and take the steps, the organized steps, to secure and hold the one thing our opposers intend to keep us from having, the one thing that is worth our gaining, the one thing without which, all else is but loss—Full and unlimited American citizenship.

## WOMAN LYNCHED IN HAMMOND, LA.

*March*  
After reading your strong address in Richmond, Va., on the challenge of the Church, I think you hit the keynote in every phase of your argument. You named the vital giants. You fail to mention their fortifications here in the Southland. I tell you Mr. Race Hate is a mighty man. It is a fact we do not want to leave the South, but under present conditions we should and ought to go somewhere.

*Record*  
On the 21st ultimo a poor Negro woman was lynched at Hammond, La. Nothing as yet has been done about it. Then a southern city judge made

an address yesterday declaring God made Negroes for hewers of wood and drawers of water. I think he has voiced the sentiment of the South for here in this State the Negro school is from four to seven months, the whites from six to nine. The Negroes have to teach in churches or nowhere. The whites have fine brick buildings to teach in. I pray that you preachers in the North will advise the southern Negro to work hard and save his money and stay North of the Ohio River, while I am one of the men in the trenches. I could stand to see my people leave here as wild geese drifts with the season.

I. R. BUTLER.



# PRESIDENT WILSON DENIES NEGROES A CONFERENCE

*August The Chicago Argus*

**L. C. Dyer Makes Effort To Have Him Receive Committee With Petition Of 15,000 Names Begging That Lynchings and Race Riot Incitement Be Made Federal Offenses. "Too Busy On Business Of Paramount Importance," Says Secretary.**

In an effort to get President Wilson to declare himself in regard to the recent riot in East St. Louis and other injustices perpetrated against the Negroes in this country, a committee in Washington, D. C., with a petition requested a conference with the chief executive and asked Congressman L. C. Dyer to arrange the meeting. Mr. Dyer used every means possible to bring the committee before the President, but was refused on the claim that "The demands upon him, (the President), at this juncture are so great that he feels obliged to conserve his time and energy for business of paramount importance."

The delegation was headed by Rev. F. A. Cullen and brought a petition with 15,000 names, begging that lynchings and race riot incitement be made federal offenses. The correspondence follows:

July 25th, 1917.

Hon. L. C. Dyer, M. C.,  
Washington, D. C.,  
My Dear Mr. Dyer:

We have the petitions ready. Can you arrange a conference with the President for us? Please help us get the matter before him in our own behalf.

If you will call Lincoln 1777, we can arrange to be at the White House two hours after the call is in, if necessary.

We are now instructing signers to send directly to the Chief Executive.

You must attend our 6 a. m. meeting, Wednesday, August 1, at John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, 14th and Corcoran Sts., Northwest. We do not want you to speak, but we want you there. Hundreds will be in attendance to greet you. Do not fail us. Our

people want to see their friend.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Nannie H. Burroughs.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1917.

Personal

My Dear Mr. Dyer:

In reply to your letter of July 26 the President asks me to express his regret that he is unable to arrange the interview which you suggest. The demands upon him at this juncture are so great that he feels obliged to conserve his time and energy for the business of paramount importance, and since every channel of inquiry that is open to the Federal Government is already being employed in this matter, he cannot see that anything would be accomplished by his receiving the delegation you suggest. Will you not explain the situation to these ladies and assure them that the President is doing and will do his utmost to safeguard the interests of the Colored people?

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. P. Tumulty,  
Secretary to the President.

Hon. L. C. Dyer,  
House of Representatives.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
WASHINGTON

July 28, 1917.

My Dear Mr. Dyer:

I have your letter of yesterday with the accompanying papers which I take the liberty of returning.

The Attorney General and I have been giving a great deal of thought to the situation in East St. Louis, and the United States District Attorney there, as well as special agents of the Department of Justice, have been at work gathering information to enable

us to determine whether any federal statute has been violated. Up to this time I am bound in candor to say that no facts have been presented to us which would justify federal action, though it is conceivable that a condition which would justify it may develop.

I am informed that the Attorney General of the state of Illinois has gone to East St. Louis to add his efforts to those of the officials of the county and city in pressing prosecutions under the state laws. The representatives of the Department of Justice are, so far as possible lending aid to the state authorities in their efforts to restore tranquility and guard against further outbreaks.

I need not tell you that I anxiously desire the whole matter was given me. It is a very serious thing for the whole nation that anything of the sort that happened in East St. Louis should be possible.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

(Signed) Woodrow Wilson

Hon. L. C. Dyer,  
House of Representatives.

## WRONG ON FACTS ABOUT LYNCHING

*Belatka ad v. v.*  
Julian Street's Views Provoke

Heated Discussion.

5/19/17.

## STATEMENT OF CONDITIONS

Miss Rachel E. Guy, Plucky Washington Schoolteacher, Makes Sweeping Reply to Article on the Negro—Atlanta Riots and Georgia Supreme Court Records Cited in the Controversy.

Miss Rachel E. Guy, who is a member of the Afro-American Historical association in Washington and also a public schoolteacher, has written the following open letter to Julian Street anent Mr. Street's article entitled "The Negro," which recently appeared in Collier's Weekly:

"Dear Mr. Street—I have read with great interest and more than once your article 'The Negro,' appearing in Collier's for Jan. 27. That you meant to be sincere is plain. That you believe you have been impartial is evident.

You have succeeded in being the former. You have failed utterly as to the latter.

"To explain, in your 'Facts About Lynching' you say, 'It was in this brief but terrible period (reconstruction), that the Negro's dream of political equality, which seemed to him to have been realized, surpassed itself in his poor, confused mind and became an utterly impossible dream of social equality, including the ultimate blending of the two races by intermarriage.' Further, 'To such a dream in the Negro mind may, you believe, be traced many of the atrocious Negro crimes against white women.' Not a word, Mr. Street, of the atrocious crimes of white men against black women.

"If intermarriage was and is the Negro's dream, then in places where he may marry white, if he pleases, he has not sought in any numbers to make the dream real. Here, in Washington, with a population of nearly 100,000 colored people, and in other cities north east and west, the proportion of mixed marriages is negligible.

### Theoretical Discussion of Lynching.

"You pass lightly over the number of innocent men and women brutally shot, hanged and burned. You discuss the reasons for lynching theoretically and with palliation. You speak of the Atlanta riots of some years ago, of the indiscriminate killing of colored people on the streets of that city as being a 'ghastly but effective remedy for a series of attacks of Negroes upon white women.' Mr. Street, you err. When has the wanton killing of innocent men, women and children ever deterred any rapist? Has lynching, the soul sickening, horrible burnings of the southern black men by southern white men, stopped any brute, be he black or white?

"But there is another side to the Atlanta massacre, a side that the white southern press suppressed, a side that white Atlanta guards and keeps quiet, a side that colored Atlanta knows, and that is the fact that investigation disclosed that not one woman could be found who had been 'attacked,' that the 'series of attacks' were chimeras of prejudice mad brains. Surely you did not know, Mr. Street; you were not told, you did not investigate the court records to find out that for this savagery the black men took a 'tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye.' Have you noticed that no colored man has been lynched in Atlanta since the time? Well, if you haven't it would interest you greatly to get on the inside of that question. I assure you I will more than repay you for your pains.

"You quote the Encyclopaedia Britannica as saying that 'colored people

nearly always shield criminals of their own race against whites.' In God's name, who would not, when colored people of some parts of the south know that for the slightest misdemeanor one of their number may be taken out to furnish souvenirs in the form of charred human flesh, bones and teeth to an exulting, yelling mob of barbarous whites? If the 'gabbling, cackling, shrill laughter of the Negro as he squats on the curb with others of his kind'—if 'these strange sounds emphasize peculiarly the affinity that exists between a Negro and a mule,' so the swoop of a southern mob with torch and rope 'emphasizes peculiarly the affinity that exists between a southern white man and a vulture, a vulture that tears out and rends the heart of its victim and feasts upon its mutilated carcass in ghoulish glee.

### Cause of Nonconviction of Lynchers.

"Besides, you admit that southern juries cannot and will not convict their lynchers, because 'every one in a county knows every one else, many of the families are related, they therefore stand together and protect one another, and the county authorities whose duty it is to apprehend lynchers usually fail to perform their duty, not always because they are unable to, but frequently, it is presumed, because the lynchers are their neighbors, if not their friends and relatives.' This, you say, is an explanation by a judge of the Georgia supreme court. Thus out of Georgia's own legal mouth does she stand before the world convicted and confessed a wanton oppressor and murderer of the weak, a derelict to her duty. Thus for the black man to shield a fellow human from torture is a heinous crime, meeting too frequently with death, while for the white man to protect another from the too lenient law is a human and commendable thing.

"Southerners have told you that 'in civil cases, especially in cases having to do with property rights, the Negro can and does get justice.' Does he? Nothing whatever, Mr. Street, of the families that are driven off their land or made to sell for a mere pittance. That, of course (?), cannot be said to be within the province of the law. Why was the wealthy Anthony Crawford lynched? 'Impudence and striking a white man' furnished the excuse; the accumulated \$20,000 worth of property was the real reason.

"You do not agree with Viscount Bryce that 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' should be generally read, because it seems to you that this tried friend of the United States has not advised us altogether well, because the primary purpose for which it was written has long since been served. Its value as a picture of



slavery is somewhat dubious, and the reading of it by those who do not fully understand this tends, you believe, to keep alive the thing which, now that slavery is gone, needs most of all to be abolished—namely, sectional feeling.

#### Questioned About Southern Peonage.

"So, Mr. Sweet, slavery is gone! How about the infamous peonage system in the south? How is it that some of the people in the 'black belt' do not know to this day that they are free? Keeping alive a dead issue! How about the 'Birth of a Nation,' a picture that keeps alive the hatreds and fosters prejudice against an oppressed people, that vilifies and maligns them? Have you read unbiased reconstruction literature thoroughly enough to know that the 'Birth of a Nation' is not history, but a lie? If so, have you ever in print said that to produce it would be unwise and certainly unkind? Had you listened, as I have from childhood, to tales of horror, borne out by ineradicable scars of the brutality of slavery, you would know that 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' is in its letter and its spirit a true picture of what was.

"The trouble, Mr. Street, is that the south has been the Rip Van Winkle of this country. It drank deep its draft of power and its peculiar ideas of superiority. It is just now being aroused by the new Negro, the Negro who through striving and sacrifice and education is coming into his soul's heritage. The south would keep alive, if it could, the 'Possum Dick' and 'Aunt Sophie' types of Negro. But, like all things else on this old planet of ours, they have had their day, have served as subjects for picture, song and story. The new Negro is no less worthy of artistic immortality. He is upright, with the straight in the eye look. He is ambitious. He is animated by a 'divine discontent.' He does his own thinking. He does not recognize and will not occupy any 'place' assigned him by another whose only claim to dictation is the color of his skin.

"In your conclusion you say, 'Let the Negro firebrand learn the common Negro virtue of great patience; let him cease to worry about rights and think always of duty and destiny.' Has it never occurred to you that there is a place and a time when patience ceases to be a virtue and becomes a most ignominious crime? That time for the Negro is now; that place is here.

#### Must Contend For Equal Justice.

"Your advice to the Negro to 'think always of duty and destiny' is good. But the new Negro has been thinking about that for some time now. He knows that his duty is to contend for every right accorded every other man of every other color. His duty is to free his children, no matter how great

the sacrifice. Every possible advantage for betterment and for growth. His duty is to protect with even greater zealousness the property, lives and honor of his own family than did his misguided forefathers protect those of an absent master. Instead of waiting supinely for a belated respect and justice from white men, he will work out and meet half way his own destiny. And that destiny! It is to stand on an equal footing with every other man of every other race, asking neither charity nor favor, but demanding and getting even handed justice.

"You read the 'Negro Year Book.' Do you read the Crisis? The 'burning Dubois' through its pages sounds the clarion call of the new Negro to a new and changing day. You speak of winning the 'respect and friendship of the intelligent white south.' The intelligent white south has a duty (again duty) to perform, a most stupendous task. It has to send well equipped and consecrated missionaries to educate and Christianize its ignorant and heathen whites, in order that the entire south may at least claim justly to be civilized and may on its own behalf win the 'respect' of the world and all the people thereof.

"You know, Mr. Street, the psychology of pictures. As you never fail to put the extenuating 'but' beside every inhuman act of the south, in the name of all that's fair, why did you not show beside the sketches emphasizing Negro sloth and vice others representing Negro progress and virtue? I feel that you have written according to your light. How poor that light only one on the inside and not an 'outsider' can know."

**STANLEY SAYS:**  
"AS LONG AS HE IS GOVERNOR THE LAW WILL BE ENFORCED"

Every Citizen Is Due Protection of Life, Liberty and Property

*The Louisville News*  
1-27-17

Directly after Gov. A. O. Stanley's brave and courageous act in stopping the Murray lynching bee, Doctor or Lawyer J. B. Colbert wrote him a letter commending and thanking him. As the letter reads it certainly voices the sentiments of thinking Colored men.

Attention is particularly called to the Governor's reply to Dr. Colbert.

The correspondence follows:  
Louisville, Ky., Jan. 13, 1917.  
Hon. A. O. Stanley, Frankfort, Ky.

My Dear Governor: If it is not too late I wish to thank you on behalf of the thousands of the members of my race for your manly and patriotic deed in quelling the mob at Murray last Thursday.

If we had more Governors of your courage and fidelity to duty as the Chief Magistrates of the Commonwealths of this nation the time would not be in the far distance when the brutal and cowardly exhibition of mob violence will be a thin gof the past and consigned to the semi-barbaric age where it belongs.

In politics I am a true-blue Republican, but when it comes to heroic deeds and patriotic performances of duty in the protection and upholding the majesty and integrity of the law, I am non-partisan. In this respect with me it is men rather than party.

You deserve the support and encouragement of all liberty-loving and self-respecting citizens regardless of race, color or political affiliations. You have rendered a great and patriotic service not only to the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky but to the entire nation. You have proven yourself worthy of the high and important office of Governor of the State. Again I thank you and pray that men of your stamp will increase and live to see the day when this country will be rid of the dastardly and cowardly practice of mob-rule.

In this act alone you have more than verified the very able speech which you delivered before our General Conference last May in this city. Yours truly,

JESSE B. COLBERT.

Office of the Governor, Frankfort.  
January 17, 1917.

Jesse B. Colbert, Louisville, Ky.  
Dear Sir: Your kind and valued favor of recent date to hand. The Constitution and law of this State were alike ordained for the protection of every citizen in his life, his liberty and his property. No man should be denied their complete enjoyment on account of his wealth or his poverty, his creed or his color. If the law makes no such distinction, a mob should not be permitted to do so, or to overthrow established institutions, trample the law under foot and to wreak its vengeance according to its prejudices or its wrath.

As long as I am, Governor of Kentucky I shall continue in the future, as in the past, to see that, so far as it within me lies, the law is rigorously enforced, and that no men shall suffer, save for crime committed, and then only after his guilt has been established by an impartial and authorized tribunal.

Yours very truly,

A. O. STANLEY

#### THE WORM TURNS

The Negro is learning at last to resent the barbarous insults of the South. The lynching in West Florida, near Gainesville last fall, called the Grand Lodge of the K. K. of the State to change its regularly appointed meeting place to Ocala. And the St. Joseph Anti-Social to seek the East Coast rather than Starke. The great National gathering of the Negro Medical Association, which was to have gone to a Southern city this year was abruptly changed from Memphis, Tenn., where Reesons, a Negro, was beheaded and burned, and will now go to Philadelphia in August.

Why the more thoughtful and impassioned element of white citizens of the South do not speak out and take a stand against this revolting and inhuman practice we cannot see. Why is it that the law is not allowed to take its course in such cases is a wonder to us. With the laws of the land brought into existence by the white man, and as he sits as judge and jury to execute them, besides the whole fabric of the court system in his hands, there is scarcely one change in a million that a black man guilty of any crime going unpunished of meeting the full penalty for his crime. In the name of all that is sacred we appeal to the South to abolish this practice which continues to precipitate an unjust criticism and undue reflection upon some of the best blood in the country, while making the whole South a stench in the nostrils of the whole civilized world.

#### LONG RECORD BROKEN

*The Richmond Planet*  
8/26/17

The long record held by the State of Virginia as a non-lynching commonwealth has been broken and it is now alleged that William Page, colored, was lynched by a mob at Lillian, Va., Wednesday night, August 15, 1917. The Virginia officials had no opportunity to prevent this violation of the law. As to what will be done about it needs hardly to be considered.

We have read the reports of the affair and we cannot understand how William Page could have been guilty of attempted criminal assault unless he was demented. To outrage a woman with another yelling female in

the vicinity is well-nigh an impossibility and yet this is what is alleged to have been done.

The laws of Virginia are so framed now that an attempted assault is punishable with death. Colored people of Virginia are practically unanimous in their opposition to the amalgamation of the races. Still, white men here in many instances insist upon cohabitation with the lower type of colored women.

The whole truth about this Page affair has not been told. Certain it is that a man is crazy, be he black or white, who would attempt to criminally assault one female in the presence of the other, while both are violently protesting against the outrage.

Colored folks know that the rapist is as dangerous to colored folks as to white ones and they will serve on a jury to land him in an electric chair as quickly as white men would do the same thing, but they refuse to believe that a sane colored man would be foolish enough to be guilty of the crime with which Page was charged under such conditions as are alleged to have existed at the time that he was charged with attempting to commit the most grievous crime known to criminal jurisprudence.

The matter should be probed to the bottom and the men, who committed murder in executing him should be made to feel the full effect of the law. Lynch-law must go!



# THE EXODUS QUESTION BROUGHT

## HOME TO EVERY NEGRO

*The Weekly Voice*

THE FOLLOWING APPEARED IN THE EDITORIAL COLUMNS OF THE BIRMINGHAM AGE-HERALD—FOLLOWING NEWS DESPATCHES WHICH STATES THAT TWO BIRMINGHAM NEGROES HAD BEEN LYNCHED IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA, BY 100 OF THE LEADING CITIZENS OF THAT COUNTY.

The lynching of two Birmingham Negroes in Lowndes county, near Montgomery, was a disgrace to the State. Simply because they were charged with having threatened a white farmer with pistols, they were taken from deputies by a mob of about 100 men and hanged to a tree. According to a correspondent, the officers "endeavored to protect the Negroes," but were overpowered. It is easy to surmise what kind of resistance was offered. Many outrages of this character might be prevented if men charged with the enforcement of law and the protection of prisoners would do their duty.

The only excuse ever offered for lynching in the south which carried any weight at all, was the violation of a white woman. A crime of that sort sweeps men of sober judgment off their feet, and while mob law is indefensible, southern people feel that they have some justification for taking the law into their own hands.

The Lowndes county victims were arrested in Montgomery while waiting for a train to Birmingham. They acknowledged that they had some trouble with a white farmer, but claimed he had struck one of them and they were merely defending themselves. They may have been telling the truth. At any rate, they had done nothing to merit death.

Such a flagrant disregard of law and justice within a few miles of the state capital calls for a prompt investigation. The men who composed the mob can be caught and they should be punished. The deputies should be held strictly accountable for their prisoners, whom they should have protected.

Lynching in any circumstances is bad enough, but stringing up Negroes for a trivial offense cannot be too severely condemned. Lowndes county must answer to the state for this wanton crime committed by men who have

mob a dose of their own medicine. Now when men like these are wantonly murdered like this almost in a stones throw of the capital, what are you going to do about it.

These men were citizens of the city of Birmingham. What is the city going to do. These men were citizens of the State of Alabama. What will the Governor do.

These men were citizens of the United States of America, what will the President and Congress do.

These men were members of the Negro Race, 12 million souls, what will the leaders do.

These men were members of a Great Negro Secret Order, what will they do.

These men were human souls, what will humanity do. Our answer is nothing the Governor, Congress, the President, the City Commission, the Leading Negro, the Heads of the Secret Orders will all sit supremely by thinking the world will soon forget this murder. The Negro Leaders will continue to accept pay to go among their people to tell them that the south and the southern white man are their best friends to remain right where they are or what?

### PRESIDENT WILSON SPEAKS OUT AGAINST MOB VIOLENCE.

Although surprisingly meager reports have been sent out of Washington touching the event, President Wilson on Tuesday of last week received a delegation of colored citizens from New York, representing the committee of the recent "Silent Protest Parade" in that city. Members of the same movement called at the White House two weeks ago and laid their protest before Secretary Tumulty, but were unable to secure a personal audience with the President. This time they were more fortunate, a definite engagement having been made through the intercession of Mr. A. B. Cooley, the well-known New Jersey barrister. The visiting party consisted of Rev. F. A. Cullen, chairman; Mme C. J. Walker, A. B. Cooley, and Rev. Charles D. Martin. They were ushered into the reception room of the White House at 4:30 o'clock and for fifteen minutes the menace of lynch law and the steps necessary to stop it were discussed.

The President listened with great courtesy and interest to the protest reflected in the remarks of the spokesmen of the delegation and spoke at length with sincerity and deep feeling. He was justly indignant with all other good Americans, he said, at the wrong perpetrated against the colored race, and that no man's sympathy was more full of sympathy at its sufferings than his. The President reviewed briefly the

active operations that are being carried on by the Department of Justice for the punishment of these responsible for the riots at East St. Louis, and added "I will do all in my power to prevent the recurrence of similar offenses to the Memphis outrage and the East St. Louis massacre—outrages against law, order and humanity. What human being would not be shocked at these atrocities. Apart from my position as President, my feeling as a man revolt at these inhuman acts against my fellow-citizens."

In closing the President again assured the committee that everything that the Federal Government could do under the existing law would be done. The interview was pronounced highly satisfactory and the committee returned to their homes elated over the frank outspoken and unequivocal expression of sympathy and support given out by the Chief Magistrate of the nation. They are confident that the atmosphere of gloom in which the race has been groping since the Memphis and East St. Louis atrocities has been largely dispelled by the responsive attitude of the President and the earnest labors of the Department of Justice to bring all perpetrators of mob violence to book for their crime.

### LYNCHING A LABOR AGITATOR.

Lawlessness begets lawlessness. Those who appeal to the sword shall perish by the sword. We thought of these axioms when we read of the lynching of Frank Little, the Industrial Workers of the World agitator, at Butte, Montana. The colored people were massacred at East St. Louis with the tacit approval of some of the leaders of this great labor organization. The appeal to law in their behalf awakened derision in some quarters.

Now the same lawlessness that has run riot for a decade in the Southern States and for ten years in the Northern ones is reacting upon the very same class of people that had previously aided, abetted and condoned it.

We cannot understand how Frank Little could have permitted himself to be strung up like dumb cattle and that he did not make a fight for his life. It must have been that he felt secure in the midst of friends. It may be too, that he did not believe that personal harm would come to him as a result of this virtual midnight removal.

So far as we are concerned, we are opposed to this kind of treatment of Little or any one else. The spectre

of the horrible crime in Illinois is reflected by the horrible murder of Frank Little in Montana. The former is worse than the latter and certainly, an advocate of lawlessness in the one State should not complain about the lawlessness in the other State, even though he himself was the victim.

### MEMPHIS.

Memphis is not the place for the Negroes of Tennessee, to hold any fraternal meetings this year. The occurrence there last week, swelling in brutality the most atrocious heinousness ever perpetrated by untutored savages should not go unrebuked. The assassin of the unarmed mob should be the subject of a most rigid investigation, so that the truth and the whole truth may be known to the world. The authorities seemed to have handled the situation in a very clumsy manner. In fact, it looks to a man up a tree that they played purposely into the hands of the mob. It was known all over Shelby County, exactly where and where the event would take place. No effort was made so far as we can learn, to foil the mob. It was truly a gala day for the good white Christian people of Shelby County, who give much to religion and nothing to a higher civilization. This country has no time to talk about the brutality of other nations, it has enough to look after right here at home.

No, don't take any of the Negro fraternal meetings to Memphis this year, as that town was shown its utter disregard of law and order.

### BUT LYNCHING GOES ON FOR

*The Southern Standard*  
Negroes may go to the North and Negroes may come to the South, but lynching goes on just the same.

But one of the most puzzling things to see is how a Negro woman can be lynched and six white men killed on the same spot of ground in one and the same day and the news not get to the associated press. They have an almost perfect system of reporters, men who would beat the wit of the governor and find that a prisoner was to pass through the city and be at the depot to take notes of every action of a sheriff and the officers; can flash the news of some government acts that are guarded with the greatest



secretly, still it seems that they have not been able to get this news of the lynching of a Negro woman and the killing of six of the mobbers by the husband of the woman.

No, this is one of the few cases where the Negro got the lead of the game and for fear that it might have a tendency to discourage mobbers, it seems, the press association rather make the attempt to keep this matter from the attention of the white public at least. Certainly it is not that there was nothing known of the affair. Certainly all these people could not have been killed and the press association not have known nothing of it even to this late date when the act took place more than two weeks ago.

In editorials of some of the papers it has been claimed that the Negroes who have been lynched were worthless and undesirable. But that is not true. There are several cases of lynchings of men and women in this state and others were as good and as lawabiding as the communities in which they lived could afford have been brutally killed and lynched. It has been said that the lynchings have been at the hands of the worst elements of the white race, and still there is not enough of the higher elements left out of it to even report it to the grand jury, and there have been accusations that even the grand jury in some cases have been implicated.

As long as mobs limited their brutal crimes to Negro men who were even accused of assaulting white women, the race had but little to say as not any of us were in sympathy with such a brute existing among us. In that case we only wanted the legal acts gone through so as to be sure of the right party. But now Negro men, women and children are snatched up and lynched for the most trifling affairs, such as stealing a mule, resisting arrest, defending a child from the lash of a white person, and for defending their own lawful wives and blood kin daughters. And not satisfied with men, it has now reached the stage where women

are almost as often lynched as men and for even less offenses.

It looks unreasonable that civilization would stand for it. It does not look reasonable that a Christian government would endure such wicked deeds if war measures had to be resorted to. It seems that the government would reject it if for no other reason than to preserve the better name in history and more decent record for their children in years to come to read.

The only thing that has been done about lynching so far as we have been able to learn is for others to say they sympathize with the Negro race and it is too bad and that this lawless element should be punished. But when it comes to a show down, there is never anyone to do this. No one is ever able to get a clue to anyone in the mob, despite the fact that every other detail concerning such crimes can be learned. The news often flashes that the Negro confessed just before he was killed even, and can such late facts be learned when nothing is known of who did the killing?

But in this affair above Athens, the husband of that wife who was lynched placed six of them where they could be identified beyond question. They were identified if for no other reason or by no other means than by their absence from home.

It certainly seems that the actions of the Negro should be perfectly justified since for all of these years the judges, the governors, the sheriffs, the courts and all the law claim that in every case it is unidentified parties. It seems that the only way to blot out this evil is to counteract it. There is no justice, no not even the slightest excuse to mob a mother because she will not let other people or other races flog her children.

It's a shame, Negroes being arrested because they get out of the way of the lawless men who care nothing for their lives and then those who stay are mercilessly killed. The state and law have no objections to Negroes leaving the

country when killed, but for God's sake do not let one start away alive. A Negro killed is just one brute out of the way. If a man from the North hires him, they are taking them away to vote, they are fooling the Negroes off to freeze, they are taking away our best labor, they are robbing the South of its greatest asset, and the men that do it should be run down and punished. A hundred Negroes may be run down from one side of a county to the other by one of these mobs called sheriff and posse, when as soon as he is caught, "the sheriff is overpowered and the culprit lynched" and it is simply a matter for the newspapers to quibble over a few days.



missions

DISGRACED

Richmond Planet. 8/28/13

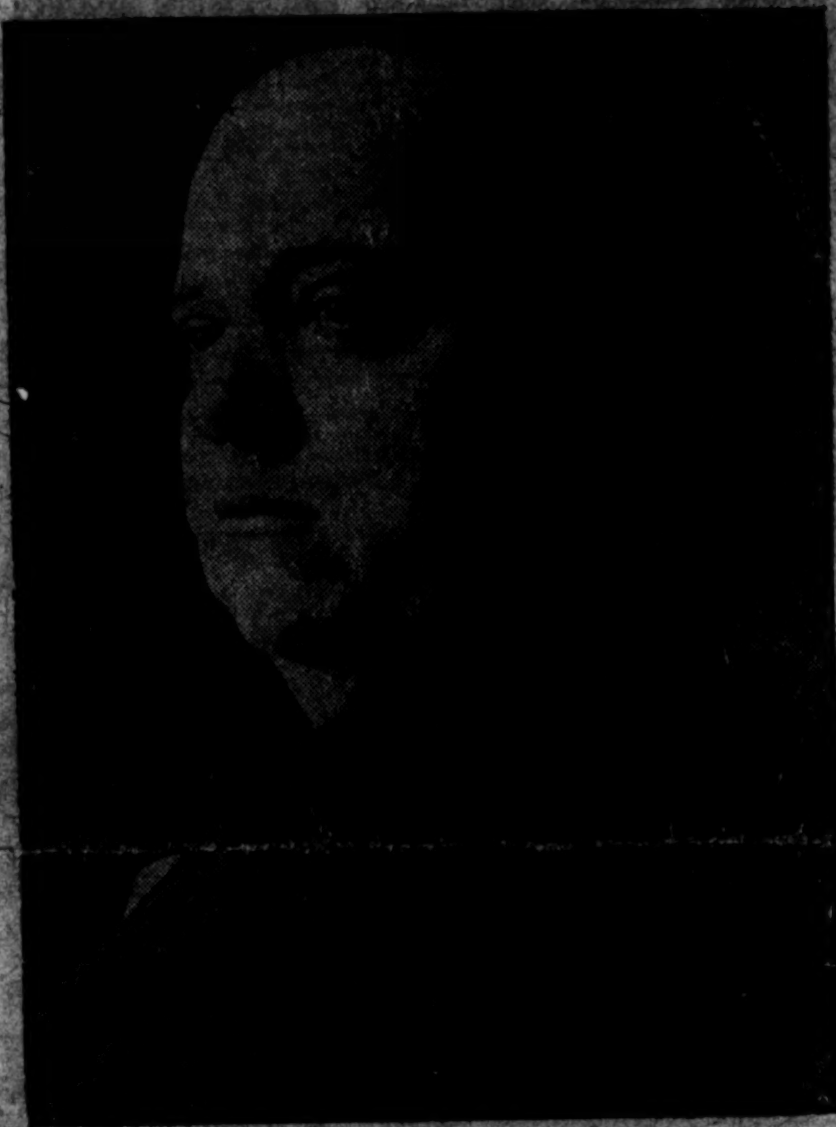


The lynching of James Page, by farmers at Lillian, Va., Wednesday, August 15th, was the first outbreak of mob violence in the Old Dominion in 18 years.—Cartoon by Mr. George H. Ben Johnson.

**Tells them to "Hang Governor" Before they Molest Colored Prisoner. His Bold Actions Saves the State from Another Disgrace.**

The Louisville News 7/3/13

## UNDOUBTEDLY SAVES FOUR MEN'S LIVES



**Governor A. O. STANLEY**

**Elected by a very small majority, generally credited to local Colored Democrats.**

Luke Martin, Colored, killed an ex-policeman a number of weeks ago. Whether justifiably or not has never been considered. Despite the bold and courageous stand in rushing to Murray, Ky., and defying a mob of 500 who had intimidated a judge and threatened a Colored prisoner. Judge C. H. Bush, who had ordered the prisoner back to Paducah after seeing signs of trouble was threatened with a similar fate to that from which he was trying to save the prisoner. And he must have believed his own life safety first generally. But the in danger and did not intend to sacrifice it for any prisoner nor for the State's honor because he counteracted his order sending the prisoner to Paducah and recalled him to Murray where he knew it was certain death for him.

ago. Whether justifiably or not has never been considered. Despite the fact that Martin and three other Colored prisoners charged, with accessories, has been out of Murray for weeks the feeling against them never died and when they were brought back for trial they were met by a mob. Judge Bush evidently tried to save them. he swore in extra guards, smuggled Martin out of town and played generally. But the mob and when the mob said it was Martin, Colored, or Judge Bush, the Judge couldn't see that Bush part at all. Self preservation is the first law of nature and the Judge is a good lawyer so he sent to Paducah for Martin



When Martin comes tell him I am done gone."

While all this was going on Gov. A. O. Stanley was in Louisville in conferences on the tax question. When he heard of the Murray mob's threat to injure Judge Bush and of Judge Bush's laying down, he telegraphed Paducah to hold the prisoner. Doubtless Martin thought Paducah, with its recent barbarities so fresh, was a swell place to keep a prisoner in "safe keeping," but he was glad not to be at Murray. Then Gov. Stanley got busy. He telegraphed the Adjutant General and officials everywhere and finally got a special train and went to Murray where he faced the mob and in earnest and dramatic manner pleaded and demanded that the law be allowed to take its course.

Such phrases as, "they can have the opportunity of hanging the Governor of the Commonwealth before wreaking vengeance on a Circuit Judge or a Negro prisoner" and "I am the Governor of Kentucky and the Negro will remain in the Paducah jail until I order his removal" will stick a long time in the public mind.

Two or three years ago a Colored boy was lynched at Henderson, Ky., and dragged through the streets by a rope on an automobile, to this Gov. Stanley said never a word. A few weeks ago two Colored men were lynched in Paducah the Gov. offered a reward and denounced the mob. This time he took the bull by the horns and undoubtedly saved the State from further disgrace but set a precedent for officers of the law everywhere by showing what one earnest official can do. Without this prompt action on the part of the Governor all four of the prisoners would most likely have been lynched.

Gov. Stanley was elected Chief Executive of this State by a very small majority—less than a thousand, and they do say that local Colored Democrats are due the credit.

At any rate in this instance it was good for Kentucky, good for Martin and maybe good for Judge Bush that A. O. Stanley was Governor.

In fact nor fiction have we ever heard before the invitation "HANG THE GOVERNOR FIRST."

**NEGRO WOMAN LYNCHED; HUSBAND KILLS SIX OF MOBERS AND GETS AWAY.**

*The Southern Standard*  
Trouble Started Over Children's Fight.

2/16/17  
A week ago there circulated a report in a paper printed in Chicago called "The Defender" the news of a lynching

supposed to have occurred three miles from Athens, Ga. At first report it stirred much excitement but later the report began to be rejected or unbelievably as none of the other newspapers, especially the dailies, gave account of the tragedy.

Investigation has revealed the fact that there was such an occurrence but instead of being at Athens, it was 18 miles away from there at another little town.

The story told by colored people living in and near the little town where the tragedy occurred was as follows:

Two little boys, a white and colored, playing in the streets got into a fight and the colored boy got the better of it. The white boy went home and told his mother who became angered and went down to the home of the colored boy to thrash him herself for what he had done to her boy. The mother of the colored boy being at home, of course intervened. This brought the mothers into a fight and in this the colored woman got the better of it.

The white woman then returned home and told her husband, who went out, it is said, got together a mob of white men, went to the home of the colored woman and took her out. After the body had been mutilated and abused and bruised in divers ways, she was taken into the woods and suspended to a limb and shot to pieces.

The mob decided then to torture her husband. So he was found and told, as the story goes, "We have killed a beef down there and we want you to go and help us take it down." The husband obedient to the command cheerfully followed. Coming to the place where the wife of the Negro hanged, they pointed to the lynched woman as the beef. The Negro man appeared very hurt. When they told him to take her home he asked the privilege of going home and getting a sheet to wrap her up in.

The request was granted and the husband of the Negro woman was allowed to go home for a sheet. He went and returned in due time. But as

he got the sheet he also got his Winchester rifle, and, slightly wrapping it in the sheet, returned as if to do the bidings of the mobbers.

Upon approaching near the scene the Negro began to fire upon the crowd of men that had lynched his wife. Six, it is said, of the mobbers were instantly killed and the others fled in many directions as there were men. The Negro also fled and since then has not been heard of.

For some reason or other there seems to have been no account of this in the associated press. The Negroes in that part are afraid to make demonstration of their pent up joy of the success of one of their fellow men having got the better of the mob after all. There are many of them who will only say yes, it is true but are afraid to give any of the details. But there are a few that will enter boldly upon a free discussion of the matter and tell all they know and heard about it.

Many of the colored people in and about the little town where it happened are of the opinion that they will soon leave for parts in the North as soon as the weather will permit. Herebefore they had been averse to the northern movement of the Negro.

#### A NEW THEORY OF MOB VIOLENCE.

Some of the leading Criminologists and Psychologists of the world, and some of the leading Jurists, in attempting to determine the psycho-legal aspects of the responsibility of a Mob for its acts have decided, among numerous things, that Mobs, generally, are insane and irresponsible because they do not fully understand the nature of the punishment they mete out to the offenders; that from the state of their minds they are only actuated by a desire for public vengeance when a wrong has been done; that their passions are uncontrollable and are only satisfied with the destruction of the object or person upon which their passions are centered, and they all agree that Mobs are governed by an unconscious motive, therefore not criminally responsible, for

the protection of society rather than of the offender. Colored men, whether guilty or not, have been strung up and riddled with bullets, and the violence done them has been passively condoned on one of the above grounds. In view of the future of investigators to fix the responsibility for Mob violence and of Grand Jurors to indict, the position of these Criminologists and Psychologists has so operated upon a credulous and complacent public mind that it rests in the belief that Mobs are not amenable to criminal punishment. However, a recent occurrence proves that in all their deliberations they have developed no real science of Criminology, as respect the acts of Mobs. Some few weeks since little Lloyd Keets, the fourteen months old son of a rich banker, of Springfield, Mo., was kidnapped and held for ransom. A nationwide search was made to recover the child, and seven persons were later arrested for connection with the crime. Only last week the kidnapped child was found dead, and a Mob quickly formed to avenge the wrong, which one of the men under arrest is alleged to have confessed. The alleged confessor was secured by the Mob and strung up by the neck twice until he was black in the face, but being a white man, and protesting his innocence to the Mob he was not lynched until dead but was turned over again to the authorities for trial in accordance with law. The action of this Mob upset all the "dope" of the Criminologists and Psychologists; it places them where they will have to begin all over again, and it proves conclusively that Mobs are not "uncontrollable", and it completely vanishes the "protection to society" motive. It injects a theory never before advanced—that Mobs are deliberate and malicious murderers, reckoning their chances for accountability more from the object upon which their vengeance is wrought, rather than for the motives which prompt them. Here was a triple crime—Kidnapping, Attempt Blackmail and Murder—and a Mob which could not see sufficient cause for summary justice. What was it that deterred them? How could they so ruthlessly upset and undo a theory as old as

is history? Would the same had been done to the same man? These things form the basis of this theory. And in the meantime there is a practical question of Mob extermination, which, if put into operation at all, must be initiated by Colored men.

#### R. R. Church, Jr., Condemns Lynching.

Memphis, Tenn., July 2—What was a record breaking meeting of the famous Lincoln Republic League was held at Church's Auditorium Friday night, June 29. The largest political organization among colored people in the country, the Lincoln League is the rallying point of fifty thousand Negroes in Memphis and all the Negroes in west Tennessee.

The first time the League had met since the burning of Ell Persons, and the beginning of the exodus of the Negro from this city and section, more than 3,000 people packed themselves in the Auditorium, while hundreds were turned away.

No organized condemnation of lawlessness had been heard; no word of advice had been forthcoming for the leadership, and no speech of hope and courage had been uttered. And the people said that their cup was running over.

The pent-up feeling of the patriots and patriarchs, together with a thousand women, found expression in a burst of cheers when Robert R. Church Jr., President and founder of the League, took the gavel. What the people expected is exactly what they got.

After his speech dealing with routine business, Mr. Church read the resolution prepared by the Executive Committee on the death of great Foraker, and then launched into a declaration against lawlessness.

"I would be untrue to you and to myself as your elected leader if I should remain silent against shame and crime of lawlessness of any character, and I could not if I would hold my peace against either the lynching or burning of a human being," he said.

He went on: "We must not lose hope, but keep our eyes open and press forward. What the Lincoln set out to do is exactly what the Lincoln proposes to do without a shadow of turning.

The President announced that the League endorsed heartily the work of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People.



# LOYALTY



PRESIDENT TELLS AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR  
THAT HE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE MAN WHO JOINS MOB  
AS WORTHY OF THE FREE INSTITUTIONS OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

*Journalist  
Dec 1, 17*

President Woodrow Wilson has at last spoken out openly against American mob violence and the spirit of lawlessness that has been rampant in various parts of this country recently. In an address several days ago before the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Buffalo, N. Y., the President denounced the mob in strong and unmistakable terms. Speaking for a united democracy in America he said:

"Therefore, my counsel to you is this: Let us show ourselves Americans by showing that we do not want to go off in separate camps or groups by ourselves, but that we want to cooperate with all classes and all other groups in a common enterprise, which is to release the spirits of the world from bondage.

## FINAL TEST OF AN AMERICAN

"I would be willing to set up as the final test of an American. That is the meaning of democracy. I have been very much distressed, my fellow citizens, by some of the things that have happened recently. The mob spirit is displaying itself here and there in this country. I have sympathy with what some men are saying, but I have no sympathy with the men that take their punishment into their own hands, and I want to say to every man who does join such a mob that I do not recognize him as worthy of the free institutions of the United States. \* \* \* And so I want to utter my earnest protest against any manifestation of the spirit of lawlessness anywhere or in any cause.

## INCAPABLE OF SELF GOVERNMENT

"Why, gentlemen, look what it means: We claim to be the greatest democratic people in the world, and democracy means, first of all, that we can govern ourselves. If our men have not self-control, then, they are not capable of that great thing which we call democratic government. A man who takes the law into his hands is not the right man to cooperate in any institution."

## PURSUERS OF A PERNICIOUS PASTIME!

Well, gentlemen, here we come again! The frequent occurrence of these damnable and cowardly acts is entirely shocking and disgusting to all members of the race.

During the last few days three Negroes have been illegally killed at the hands of hellish, infernal and nefarious mobs in Texas.

One Houston chauffeur was lynched near Navasota last week because he was driving a car which accidentally killed a white child riding on a horse.

The cars met the girl on an incline and the accident was un-



avoidable, the space being very narrow.

The Negroes, instead of speeding away, like white motorists generally do under such situations, returned and reported the accident.

The brave and heroic Grimes county hoodlums got busy and superseded the law and the lifeless body of a young Negro man was found on the tree to tell the tale.

Then Waco, better known as "Barbecueville"—because the white inhabitants delight in serving and eating baked and barbecued Negro and carrying around his toes and fingers in their pockets as souvenirs—broke into the spotlight once more when a crowd of desperadoes and marauders beat a Negro to death because he bested a white opponent in an encounter.

Not to be outdone by other Texas communities Galveston—which became famous on account of the visitation of God's wrath in the form of a storm in 1900—the home of millionaires and reputed as an exceptional fair Southern city—proved its calibre Monday morning by lynching a race man.

This man was charged with criminal assault upon a white woman and had been kept in this city for safe-keeping.

He was taken to Galveston for trial, which was to take place Monday, and the mob decided that it possessed the unquestioned and unchallenged right to avenge a crime, to which he had not even confessed.

As a consequence, through a reported ruse, they entered the jail, covered and cowed (?) the jailer and led the prisoner away to execution, which consisted of hanging, preceded by knife and bullet wounds.

We do not condone these Negroes in their alleged acts, but we vehemently denounce the mobs for their utter disregard of law and order.

We can denounce Germany and other countries as much as we please for their inhumanity, but it will be far better to clean up our own premises first, for the blind cannot successfully lead the blind.

"Fighting for democracy" is a pretty sounding doctrine, is commendable, and like charity should begin at home.

These Negroes were American citizens and were due all the protection, safety and impartiality shown other men.

Worse demons than Turks and Germans are every day in America demonstrating their barbarism and cannibalism.

We subscribe for bonds to help the entente powers and have decided to spend and be spent in an effort to purge Europe of militarism and aristocracy, while at our very door lynch law (worse than militarism) and mobocracy hold sway in an abominable, shameful and shocking manner.

We have tried to console ourselves and race with the fact that these outbreaks are local, but since they are getting so commonplace and frequent NO NEGRO ANYWHERE IN THE SOUTH ESPECIALLY CAN FEEL SAFE.

The news dispatches, in reporting the Navasota case, tried to joke the incident off by saying "the Negro committed suicide," "when his car wrecked he was hurled up in the tree," etc.

In the name of heaven how long will these mobocratic crimes continue and the leaders and participants go unpunished?

The careless and indifferent manner in which the courts look upon the perpetrators of these odious and execrable outbreaks has only tended to increase and accentuate the mob spirit.

Just because the victim happens to be a Negro is sufficient ground to end the case where it is and an investigation is rarely attempted and a conviction is impossible.

All this happens openly and continually in a democratic country which has entered a world-wide war for the "democratization of the world."

Why send a commission of enlightenment to Russia, when the South and its infernal hell-holes—such as Memphis, Waco, Navasota, Galveston and many other diabolical and outrageously wicked communities—are in a worse plight than darkest Russia?

That old expression and bourbon doctrine that "the Negro has no rights that a white man is bound to respect" had better be abrogated and put in the discard, for it is undemocratic, unfair, unbrotherly and unbearable.

These lynchings have only done one good thing in this city: They increased recruiting for Pennsylvania to such an extent that the labor agency was forced to secure larger quarters for this specific task, 600 Negroes having gone from this district alone, and many of our best citizens are contemplating selling their holdings and going North.

We strain at a gnat and swallow a camel and unless we change our method of dieting, we (Americans) are going to die of national acute indigestion.

The Negro can not be blamed for migrating in the face of such inhuman treatment.

In view of the fact that it will take the United States 187 years to get her fighting forces up to the required war strength, considering the manner in which the whites are voluntarily enlisting daily, it appears to us that all efforts to secure enlistments should be centered in the various "Lynch-burbs," where the white patriots and heroes dwell superabundantly.

#### VIRGINIA YIELDS ONE

*The Journal Guide, 8/25/17*

After a long period of law observance a lynching occurred in Virginia on Wednesday, August 15th. Northumberland county furnished the stage for the tragedy and the victim was a colored man who had been drafted in the United States army. The lynching raised the nice question as to whether the federal government should undertake to prosecute the lynchers, the victim being in the service of the government as a soldier, or having been drafted for that purpose. It was almost immediately decided, however, by the war department that the crime was committed against the State of Virginia and not against the United States government, and the matter of prosecution would be left to the State. This is another incident to emphasize the severe limitations of the federal government as construed by the present administration.

dorsed By Nearly Two  
Hundred Delegates

## MAKE LYNCHING FEDERAL CRIME

National Equal Rights League  
Petitions Congress to En-  
force Present Laws.

OPPOSE RACE PREJUDICE  
*Journal Guide, 8/29/17*  
Migration Movement Also En-

New York, N. Y.—Vigorous protest against undemocratic treatment of Colored American citizens in the land of their birth by the national government in times of peace and in military arrangements in time of war were adopted by the National Equal Rights League at its 10th annual meeting in Mother Zion Church on West 136th Street on Thurs-

day of this week.

Want Lynching Made Federal Crime.

In the report on Military Race Discrimination and in the formal address to the country separate officer training, soldier training and cantonment provision were vigorously denounced as based on race prejudice. Pres. Wilson was quoted as giving the United States' mission in the European War to be that of real democracy and in turn the League demanded in precise terms that Pres. Wilson abolish segregation of government clerks and recommend to Congress enactment of laws—

(a) To enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments which forbid peonage and disfranchisement; (b) To make lynching a federal crime; (c) To forbid segregation by race in interstate travel, or in federal territory.

Nearly 200 delegates were in attendance at the League meeting and at the Race Congress called by the League for deliberative purposes Rev. M. F. Sydes, R. I. was elected Pres., Rev. J. W. Brown of Mother Zion and Rev. J. W. Hill, vice-presidents; Rev. E. P. Dixon of Mass., secretary; Rev. W. S. Smith of N. J. Chaplain; Mr. J. C. Ford of Mich., Sergeant-at-arms; Rev. Sydes, Rev. Hill, Mr. Ford, Hon. I. B. Allen of N. Y., Mrs. Ida B. W. Barrett of Ill., A. B. Cosay of N. Y., and M. T. Jones of Ark., were elected and accepted by the League as delegates to the National Liberty Congress at Washington, D. C., in December.

Delegates were present from as far south as No. Carolina, Georgia and Arkansas, as far west as California. Large audiences attended the mass meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Addresses were made by Mrs. Ida B. W. Barnett of Ill., Pres. Byron Gunner, Rev. J. M. Waldron and Judge E. M. Hewlett of D. C., M. T. Jones of Ark., William D. Brigham of Boston, only white delegate; Rev. J. W. Brown, pastor of Mother Zion; Hon. I. B. Allen, Rev. W. S. Holder and Rev. J. M. Summers of N. J., Mrs. M. C. Simpson, J. F. Monroe of N. Y., Rev. M. F. Sydes, Hon. Geo. W. Murray, Prof. Allen W. Whaley, organizer for the Liberty Congress and others. Dr. Wm. A. Sinclair read the address to the Country framed by Judge Hewlett and William Monroe Trotter.

The next annual meeting will be held in Chicago, Ill.

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# Hats Off to Governor Stanley!

Hats off to Governor Stanley, of Kentucky! He is the sort of man who does honor to his position. The story of how he chartered a special train and was rushed to the town of Murray in time to quell a mob that threatened to attack a judge and lynch a prisoner, is likely to go down in the history of the Commonwealth which already figures to a considerable extent in the history of this country. The crowd had been clamoring for the life of a negro charged with murdering a white man, and there is no telling what might have happened if it had not been for the prompt and courageous action of the Governor.

It is not possible to pass judgment on the case at issue at this distance, but the mere fact that the crowd was ready to wreak vengeance upon the accused was proof that he was not likely to get an unbiased trial, and for that reason its postponement appears to have been just and reasonable.

But aside from that Governor Stanley has performed a great service to his State—a service which should be recognized especially by those who would have lynch law take the place of the usual orderly course of justice.

A determined man who knows his duty and has the courage to do it is a real asset to any community.

BROOKLYN N.Y. JUNE 2, 1917

An effort to secure federal legislation grappling with the evils of lynching and mob violence in the states is evidently to be seriously made in Congress, possibly under the leadership of Senator Lodge. A bill drafted by the Negro lawyer of Boston, William H. Lewis, which the senator is reported to regard with considerable favor as a foundation for the legislation that may be sought, reads as follows:—

If two or more persons in any state, district or territory of the United States conspire to lynch, burn, murder or maim any citizen of the United States, or to deprive any citizen of the United States of his right to migrate from one state or territory of the United States, or to any foreign state or territory, and the local authorities of any such state, territory or district shall within three months from the date of such offense fail, neglect or refuse to bring to justice such persons so conspiring, such persons shall be deemed guilty of an offense against the United States, cognizable in the federal courts, having jurisdiction of such state, territory or district, and each of such persons shall upon conviction of such offense be punished by imprisonment for not more than 20 years; or if loss of life results from such conspiracy, each of such persons so conspiring shall be punished by imprisonment for life, or by death, at the option of the jury.

Every citizen is a citizen both of the United States and of the state in which he resides and the bill would assert the power of the United States to protect its citizens after they had failed in due season to receive protection from any particular state. State sovereignty would be recognized by con-

ceding priority to the state's authorities in punishing the crimes reached by the statute; the federal authorities would act only when the states have neglected or refused to exercise their powers. So far as the principle is concerned, why isn't this proposal sound?

GLOBE

Boston, Mass.

## THE BRAVEST MAN

IN his play, "The Mob," Galsworthy has his hero say to the crowd that storms his house: "You are the thing that pelts the weak; kicks women; howls down free speech. This today and that tomorrow. Brain—you have none. Spirit—not the ghost of it! If you're not meanness, there's no such thing. If you're not cowardice, there is no cowardice."

At best the splendid speech in the play has thrilled a few thousands, but the living deed of Gov Stanley of Kentucky in subduing a town full of mob-spirited people should be a message to millions.

Because the trial of a negro charged with the murder of a white man had been deferred, the mob at Murray, Kentucky, threatened the lives of the judge and of the attorney

or the State. Gov Stanley chartered a special train and sped to the scene of disorder, declaring that he would give them a chance to lynch the governor of Kentucky first." With the guardsmen of the State on border duty for the Nation there was nothing to interpose between violence and law except the body of the State executive. He offered himself.

At this exhibition of real heroism, one man standing against hundreds, the mob was sobered. More such official heroism and lynchings will end. In the adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain has a hero brave enough to be likened to Gov Stanley. Twain's Col Sherburn checks a mob single handed and tells them: "The thing for you to do is to drop your tails and go home and crawl into a hole."

The first citizen of Kentucky has proved truth to be as brave as fiction.

HARTFORD COURTS IN COURT  
DECEMBER 7, 1917

Governor McCall doubtless had no expectation that his refusal to permit West Virginia to take the accused negro Johnson out of Massachusetts would find approval in the South. His refusal carried a criticism of the courts of the South in their dealings with the negroes that could hardly fail to arouse resentment, and the resentment has found expression. That is what Governor McCall might have expected. There has been another form of criticism from the South, however, that people of the North could not so easily have foreseen. It relates, not to the honor and fairness of the white people of the South, but to the welfare of the negroes themselves.

This point of view has been elaborated in two editorials in recent issues of the "Columbia State." This cannot exactly be called the South Carolina view, because there are differing views in that state, as the "State" sets forth, but it is the view of many thoughtful people in South Carolina and other Southern states. Briefly expressed this view is that the establishment of respect for courts of law is a necessary step to the establishment of justice and that Governor McCall and the lynching mobs walk shoulder to shoulder inappell of personality so strong as in the creating distrust of the courts. Both South. Human nature is elemental, heart in effect, say that the courts are not warm, and men are swayed more by their emotions than by their reason than to be relied upon and that individual and organized mobs must see the case in our Northern States where to it that justice is done according to their own ideas.

It is true, as the "State" says, that

only three ways are open to the negro accused of crime in the South. He must be tried by the courts, be lynched by the mob or escape to the North. It is evident, too, that only an exceedingly small proportion of accused negroes can possibly make their escape to the North. Therefore, for most of them it must be a court trial or a mob execution. Certainly a court trial is to be preferred, although the courts may be imperfect. Therefore, reasons the "State," respect for the courts should be taught and fair trials should be encouraged and demanded. It is claimed by the "State" that seldom is a negro unjustly convicted in a South Carolina court, but it is admitted that it is not uncommon that an innocent negro is slain by a mob.

The "State's" plea is that it is not wise to promote distrust of the courts, for the lyncher's excuse for violence is that the courts cannot be trusted. This is declared to be a pernicious doctrine and it is said that for Governor McCall to take such a position is to encourage the lawless mob and to deliver the offending negro in the South into its hands. There is some ground, no doubt, for the "State's" argument. It is wholly sound in its broad aspect. Distrust of the courts should not be encouraged. But there is oversight of an important detail. While the mob claims that the court cannot be trusted to convict the negro, Governor McCall claims that under certain circumstances, the court cannot be trusted to acquit the negro, though he may be innocent.

Both, of course, fear that the negro will not get exact justice, as justice appears in the eyes of each, but if the lynchers are to be influenced in any way by the action and opinion of Governor McCall, they should be willing to leave the fate of the negro in the hands of the court, in the firm belief that he is pretty sure of conviction and punishment, whatever may be the degree of his guilt or innocence.

## TRANSCRIPT

Boston, Mass.

## A GOVERNOR ON THE JOB

Probably nowhere in the country is the mob walk shoulder to shoulder inappell of personality so strong as in the South. Human nature is elemental, heart in effect, say that the courts are not warm, and men are swayed more by their emotions than by their reason than to be relied upon and that individual and organized mobs must see the case in our Northern States where to it that justice is done according to their own ideas. It is true, as the "State" says, that

are tremendously moved by the theatrical. This is why Judge Priest and Governor Stanley, both Kentuckians, of a type that we in New England rarely see, held back the mob and prevented a lynching. It would be difficult to picture a governor of Massachusetts, in frock coat and silk hat, going into the crowded courtroom of a mountain town and telling a frantic mob from the judge's bench that if they were bent on lynching somebody they could start on him first. He would stop the lynching, but he would find some other way to do it. Probably no other way would have been effective in Kentucky. It was Stanley's drama that caught the crowd and won them over, and saved the State from the disgrace of a flagrant disregard of the law and courts.

The meagre newspaper reports do not give us the speech that Governor Stanley made to the hostile crowd in the Court House. More's the pity, for we suspect that it was a gem. First of all, it was humorous, for Stanley, as those know who heard him one night some years ago at the Boston City Club, when he was in Congress, is a story teller from the same soil that produced Irvin S. Cobb, with a Southern drawl and a voice calculated to charm a bird out of a tree. When he faced that mob, clamoring for the negro's life, terrorizing the judge, holding the town in a witching spell of madness, he knew that his first job was to make those wild-eyed mountaineers laugh. Once the grins and guffaws came he "had them," as the spell binders say; he broke the tension, got them on his side, and then the rest, making them listen to reason, was easy. The mob spirit took flight at the sound of laughter. And then we see the governor going about the streets of the little town, talking to groups of determined, blood-mad men, appealing first to the homely human sides of their natures, and then to their pride as citizens, their love of Kentucky, talking to them man-fashion, calling them by their first names and receiving the same compliment in return.

It was as dramatic a thing as a Southern governor has done in many a long year, and sets a splendid example to those States where lawlessness too often is permitted to have its way and the militia commonly arrives in time to cut down the body from the bridge. When Mr. Cobb had Judge Priest re-elected by the votes of the very mob he had felled, he knew his Kentucky. Governor Stanley's prompt and courageous handling of a difficult situation may yet put him in the United States Senate.

ITOP

ALTOONA PA

THE FIVE WHO WEL

ABOUT A YEAR AGO



of Worth county, Ga., was murdered. Six negroes were arrested and charged with the crime. A mob immediately assembled and lynched five of them. The sixth was rescued. Worth county rang with praise of this prompt and effective administration of justice, though its joy was tempered somewhat by chagrin over the escape of one of the negroes.

Jim Keith, the man who thus failed lynch law, was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. That trivial punishment was pointed to by friends of Judge Lynch as proof of the superiority of extemporized mob law over courthouse law.

However, it has just developed that Jim Keith really hadn't anything to do with killing the sheriff. He has had a new trial and has proved his innocence. Incidentally it has been proved that the other five were as innocent as he.

Jim has been freed. The other five negroes have been officially vindicated, but it isn't clear that that will do them any particular good. A man thoroughly lynched stays lynched a long time.

And yet there are men in Worth county, and in various other counties around the country, who will maintain the superiority of mob law.

**REPUBLICAN**  
**Scranton, Pa.**  
**JAN 2 - 1917**

### A Lesson in Lynch Law.

The courts of Shelby county, Tennessee, have just read Judge Lynch a costly lesson. A few of the kind will go a long way in putting a stop to practices that have brought much reproach upon Americans.

Matthew Harris, a negro, has been awarded \$42,500 damages in a case he brought against John A. Reichman, a former sheriff, who was a member of a posse that had the "fun" of dynamiting Harris' house while in search of a fugitive who was said to be a relative of the negro.

Harris resisted illegal entry to the extent of firing on the posse. So the dynamiting was resorted to, as a result of which Harris was seriously injured. The case created a big sensation and Harris brought suit for damages in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

It is believed that the verdict was largely influenced by the charge of Judge McCall in which he emphasized the old principle of English law which

has always remained a cardinal part of the our judicial practice that a man's house is his castle and he has every right to defend it against the force.

An interesting fact is that this verdict of heavy damages was found in a federal and not in a state court.

### EVENING POST

New York City

**FEB 22 1917**

Lynching even of guilty persons is revolting, but what words can express the horror with which one reads of the lawless execution of the innocent? Yet, as if her record of mob violence were not black enough, Georgia finds that she has added to it this last touch of barbarism. A year ago, a negro named Keith was saved by county officers from a mob bent upon lynching him for his alleged part in the murder of a sheriff. Five other negroes were killed by the mob. Keith was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to a life term. Then new evidence was discovered, which showed that neither Keith nor any of the five men who had been lynched was guilty. Keith received his freedom at the hands of a white jury, but not all the willingness in the world to do justice could bring back the five murdered men from their graves. "What a commentary upon the accursed institution of lynching!" the *Atlanta Constitution* exclaims. But this is a case in which the innocence of the victims was established. How many cases are there in which the fact of lynching ended investigation which might have shown similar guiltlessness in other suspected persons? No wonder that the *Constitution* demands: "How long are the decent, law-abiding citizens of Georgia going to tolerate this disgraceful, barbaric practice—which is the foulest blot upon the name of the State to-day?"

### SCORES THOSE WHO TRIED

**TO SAVE LEO FRANK**

**BOSTON MASS. HERALD**

**JUNE 29 1917**

**Minnie C. Simpson Declares Mob Was Wrong While Negroes Still Are Lynched.**

Mrs. Minnie C. Simpson, president of the anti-lynching department of the Northwestern Federation of Women's Clubs, speaking at St. Stephen's Church, Cambridge, last night, accused Mayor Curley, Ex-Gov. Foss and Bishop Lawrence of inconsistency in attempting to save Leo Frank, a convicted white man, from the chair, and remaining silent while Negroes were lynched without trial. She said the Negroes had waited long enough for white people to do something to stop lynchings.

"I would not aid the women of the South any more than the women of the North to obtain the right to vote," she said. "I would see them farther in Hades than an eagle could fly in 40 years before I would give them power over me and mine."

Prof. Allen W. Whaley uttered a plea for fair play for the Negroes—"something they have not had in this country in the 300 years of its existence."

"Lynching will continue in the South for 50 years more if the 15,000,000 of Negroes don't rise as one man and put it down," he said. "I know how it will be done, but I dare not tell it now. The way to fight hell is with hell and we are going to do it that way."

He declared that the National Liberty Colored League, which meets in Washington next fall, will stay there until it gets what it wants. He said that Negroes are being insulted at recruiting stations, and added he would not fire a shot for a flag under which he had been insulted.

Other speakers were the Rev. A. F. Auten, the Rev. C. B. Lawyer, the Rev. William H. Dabbs and the Rev. Johnson W. Hill, pastor of St. Stephen's Church.

**NYC POST**

**AUGUST 2, 1917**

It would not seem to require much urging to persuade a President to "speak some public word that will give hope and encouragement" to the American negro, but Woodrow Wilson's attitude toward the race has thus far been outwardly so unsympathetic that only his utterance of the word will dispel doubt of his willingness to say it. There is cause for gratification, however, in Mr. Tumulty's statement to the delegation that called at the White House yesterday, that the President has consulted department officials regarding better protection for our negro citizens. The petition presented to the President and Congress is an appeal from the States to the nation. It merely stands upon the record when it observes that "the States are either unwilling or unable to put down lynching and mob violence." It asks, therefore, that these acts be made Federal crimes, by statute if possible, by Constitutional amendment if necessary. Special point is given the petition by the lynching of a man not a negro, in the North, not the South, for a cause that is not clear. It can no longer be argued that lynching is a peculiar institution of the South. It has been resorted to in almost every large section of the whole country. Yet the States have done almost nothing except debate the question. Small wonder that those who furnish most of the victims are demanding protection from Washington.

### EVENING POST

New York City

Gov. Manning, of South Carolina, opens his second term with apparently firm determination that, so far as he can prevent it, nothing like the Abbeville lynching shall again disgrace the State. His annual message and inaugural address both ask that, "in order to strengthen the hands of the Governor in the enforcement of the law, a method be provided for the suspension or removal of sheriffs and other officers for incapacity, misconduct, or neglect of duty." The Governor should be empowered to summon any sheriff to show cause why he should not be suspended, to suspend him if he sees fit, and to assign the case to the Supreme Court to determine whether the officer should be reinstated or removed. Such a law, with a bold Executive behind it, would give every sheriff in the State a new sense of what is demanded of him. The next step for the Governor to take is to ask for a State constabulary; centralization of police authority would then be as complete as it should be, and the policing arm in form to attain its greatest efficiency. South Carolina is one of the Southern States most ready for this advanced step, and might give a valuable object-lesson to her sisters.

**EXPRESS**

**ANN YAN. N. Y.**

**FEB 28 1917**

### Lynched the Innocent.

Something more than a year ago a sheriff was murdered in Georgia. Jim Keith, a negro, was accused of the crime and narrowly escaped lynching. He was saved, however, by the county officers, but five other negroes, believed to have been implicated with him, were murdered. Later Keith was tried, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. In the course of time new evidence was discovered. A new trial for Keith was ordered, and in the light of the new evidence he was acquitted by a white jury and given his freedom. But the five innocent men murdered by the mob, what of them? Who will rectify the injustice done in their case? As a knockout argument against lynching in the very heart of the lynching belt we submit this is unanswerable.—*Rochester Democrat*.

In recent years there have been scores of cases similar to the above. But as the victims were neither Belgians nor Armenians—only American subjects—the people have been very little concerned about the outrages, and the general government has given them no attention.

Kentucky Governor Prevents Lynching  
A lynching mob in Murray, Kentucky, balked of its desire to put to death a negro accused of murder, attempted to revenge itself by killing Judge Bush and Commonwealth Attorney Smith. A force of deputy sheriffs called out for the emergency was barely able to prevent the mob from dynamiting the hotel at which the judge and the prosecutor were staying. Popular anger was directed against these two men for permitting a postponement of the murder trial and for taking the accused negro out of town to prevent a lynching. Finding that the local authorities had such difficulty in maintaining order, Governor Stanley chartered a special train and reached Murray on January 11. He spent the morning in appeals to the citizens to respect the law. He reminded them that his oath of office required him to support the laws of the state and see to their orderly execution, and he declared that he would uphold the authority of the court with his own life if necessary. By noon he had quieted the town and compelled even the mob to recognize his courage and his sincerity. After averting the lynching in Murray, Governor Stanley left the town in company with the judge and the prosecutor by the train which he had chartered for the emergency.

**COURANT**

**Hartford, Conn.**

**MAR 5 1917**

### MASS MEETING HEARS

**PROTEST TO LYNCHINGS**

**Boston Woman Speaks at Shiloh Baptist Church.**

Mrs. Butler R. Wilson of Boston, a representative of the National Association for Colored Accomplishment, spoke in protest of lynchings before a mass meeting at the Shiloh Baptist Church yesterday afternoon. "If war comes, history will repeat itself," she said. "There has not been a war for freedom that the negro has not fought in, and we will always be true to the flag and will always try to uphold it."

"Up to January, 1900, 2,900 people have been lynched in the United States, most of whom were colored. Last August there were six colored men and women lynched in Gainesville, Fla., although there was no accusation of any kind against them. Last year in Waco, Tex., a man was convicted of murder and was dragged from the courtroom, tied to an automobile and dragged around the streets and then burned before 15,000 people, without one arrest. This is even worse than war. We will have

strong that the truth may be known to all people who will respond to the cause of justice."



MAR 6 1917

## Ist das nicht Lynch Law?

Während der Präsident in der Bundeshauptstadt von hohen Idealen, von Einigkeit der Nation, vom Fallenlassen aller früheren Differenzen sprach, und mit den Worten den Beifall des Volkes des wirklichen Amerika fand, tagte in der vornehmen Carnegie Hall eine Gesellschaft von — sagen wir — Ladies and Gentlemen. Das waren keine „Riots“ hungernder Eastside-Frauen. Das waren „echte“ Amerikaner der „Rights League“ — so sagen sie wenigstens. James Bed, ehemaliger Generalanwalt der Ber. Staaten, sprach; den Vorsitz führte der in England geborene, in Deutschland, teilweise, erzogene, mit hiesigen Amerikanern deutscher Abkunft verschwägerter Putnam haben. Die Anwesenden waren — Ladies and Gentlemen; sie geben sich wenigstens dafür aus.

Die Sprache aber war die der Gasse — des Mob, der Neger lynchen will. Sang them! Damit waren die elf Senatoren gemeint, die von ihrem unbestrittenem Rechte, anderer Meinung zu sein als der Präsident, als Jimmie Bed, Gebrauch gemacht. Der Kongreß hat zwar seine Zustimmung noch nicht gegeben, die Schiffe zu armieren. Aber Jimmie Bed erklärte in der Carnegie Hall, der Kongreß wisse gar nichts, der Präsident habe das Recht. Punktum! Würdig des Mobs, der in der Carnegie Hall „Lynch-Law“ studierte, war die Forderung, daß Root und Roosevelt ins Kabinett forciert werden, Wilson zu „accelerieren“.

Ein angesehenen Kaufmann so wenig Pro-German wie Roosevelt, Irving Bush, wagte es auch nur mit leiser Worte zu mahnen, gegen Deutschland, daß sich gegen seine geplante Zerstörung wehre, einigermaßen gerecht zu sein. Lynch him! Traitor! Er ist ein „German“! — war die Antwort des Mobs von — Ladies and Gentlemen, der sich „American Rights League“ nennt.

Wenn, Mr. Präsident, Bürger deutscher Abkunft sich in ähnlicher Weise zusammengetan, würde heute nicht die ganze Presse, die mit Stolz von ihrem Jimmie Bed berichtet, voll sein von „German Plots“? Würde nicht im Justiz-Departement solch wilde „Lynch-Law“-Rede als Aufreizung zu Riots ausgelegt werden? Und mit Recht! Nun wohl. Die Ladies and Gentlemen, die gestern abend „Lynch-Law“ befürworteten, sollten unterdrückt werden, wie man die „Plotters“ irgend einer Spezies unterdrückt.

## WILSON SHOCKED BY ACTS AGAINST NEGROES

Says His Feelings Revolt at Inhumanity

WILL TRY TO PUNISH GUILTY

AUGUST 16, 1917

Rev. Charles D. Martin Tells How President Received a Delegation from the Silent Protest Parade and Expressed His Sympathy for the Numerous Victims of Race Hatred.

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A. B. Cosey, who introduced the rest of the delegation, the Rev. F. A. Cullen, chairman; Mrs. C. J. Walker and myself. Among other things, the President said:

"What human being would not be shocked at these atrocities! Apart from my position as President, my feelings as a man revolt at these inhuman acts against my fellow-citizens."

"He assured us that everything the Federal Government could do under the existing laws would be done to punish the offenders, and that steps would be taken to prevent similar offences in the future."

"As spokesman of the delegation I said to the President:

"We thank you for this audience granted us, and being aware of the grave responsibilities resting upon you, we are grateful that you have stopped awhile in the midst of these world matters to listen to our woes. We have been loyal. We are yet loyal. We have stood by you. We shall stand by you. We love the flag that floats above us, but our great grief is that it does not afford us adequate protection. We deprecate the use of force for our safety, and so we appeal to you, feeling that your word will hinder wrongs and intimidate evildoers. We are like sheep without a shepherd, harassed and worried on all sides, and in our extremity we call on you. We look to you for an expression of abhorrence of these crimes, so that others may not feel that they may kill black people with impunity. I have the honor to present you this petition."

The petition was as follows:

"We, members of the executive committee of the Negro Silent Protest parade, have had the honor of presenting you through your secretary a petition praying the suppression of lynching and its kindred ills."

"We now request you to make a public utterance that will assure twelve million colored children, women, and men whose wrongs cry to heaven for justice that your great and far-reaching influence will be exerted to prevent their color from militating against their ability or proving a barrier for their advancement; that you will use your powers and, as far as you can, the forces of the Government to bring the perpetrators of the crimes of lynching, burning, and arson to justice; and urge Congress to cleanse the 'damned spot' from the fair hands of America by making lynching a Federal crime."

"We further pray that God's blessing will rest upon this country, and bring us out of this death struggle for human rights a strong, pure, and chastened nation."

WINNEAPOLIS MINN NEWS  
JULY 18, 1917

## THE NEGRO AND DEMOCRACY

Editor Daily News

Is it any wonder that we have such outrages as the recent East St. Louis riot when certain classes of citizens such as Bradford L. Thompson hold such narrow and prejudiced views toward his darker brothers? It is such prejudice as is displayed in his article that arouses the brute passion in man of foul deeds that drag our fair name in the mire. It is very fortunate that we have so few of his kind within the borders of the great state of Minnesota for we can well do without them. The South is where they belong and where they should stay.

I have heard of no startling amount of crimes committed by blacks in the state of Minnesota and I read all the daily papers regularly. Speaking of the negro and the heinous crimes that he commits, I refer to some of the so-called outrages he is lynched for. Never given a chance to prove his innocence. May 20, Fulton, Ky., Lawrence Dempsey hanged for wounding a railroad watchman, Feb. 28, Hammon, La., Emma Hooper hanged for wounding a constable. And still only a few generations ago out of the heart of blackest Africa, as he says, I failed to ever hear of him taking part in such fiendish and heathenish occurrences as the mob that burned Jesse Washington at Waco, Texas, May 15, 1916, or the most acrimonious mob that on May 22, 1917, soaked the body of Eli Pearson in gasoline and then burned him with the cry that he burned too slow, or the terrible slaughter of the recent East St. Louis race riot.

Is it for the protection of both races when the white lords of the South put their heels upon the neck of the weak black and tell him it is for a stable government and prosperity of us all? As in the autocracy of Europe to give the people the ballot is admission of fear that they may demand their rights with that very weapon; but to reach down and take them by the hand and educate them to its good uses is a sign of true democracy. But not until then will we have the right to declare that we are fighting for democracy.

Minneapolis, Minn.

S. G. FRANKLIN.

MINNEAPOLIS ALA LIDDER  
JULY 27, 1917

## An Ugly Smear on the Fair Name of Alabama

Every law-abiding citizen of Alabama who has at heart the welfare of his state deplores the lynching of two negro prisoners in Lowndes county recently by a mob of a hundred citizens. There was absolutely no justification or excuse for this open expression of anarchy. Not even the makeshift of labor competition, which made of East St. Louis a den of lawlessness and a source of shock and odium to every decent American, could be pleaded in defense of such a crime.

The Lowndes lynching was a cold-blooded, brutal exhibition of lawlessness such as will accomplish nothing towards improvement of conduct on the part of negroes in that section. It will do great damage to the community in which it occurred by holding it up to the disgust of the state and the country at large as a place where respect for law is at a minimum, and by influencing law-abiding and decent prospective settlers to steer clear of that locality.

Aside from the material aspect, such a crime will tend to decrease respect for law among the people of Lowndes, and to lower their standards of citizenship.

The good name of Alabama has been brought into disrepute by this brutal offense. The capacity of the people of the state to establish and maintain an efficient system of government for the protection of life and property is involved.

In the name of civilization and common decency the state government should not only get busy in bringing to justice the offenders who are guilty of this expression of anarchy, but should insist that the local authorities who are responsible for permitting a mob to take the prisoners out of their hands be properly called to account.

There is good reason to believe this crime might have been prevented with proper precautions and safeguards. There should be no difficulty in ascertaining the names of the leaders who committed this crime against the fair name of the state and the cause of civilization. With anything like proper regard for law and order, and anything like reasonable determination on the part of the people of Lowndes to uphold the dignity and protecting power of the law, leaders of that mob could be apprehended and punished in a way that would be an effective object lesson against the commission of such offenses in future.

Will the state government and the local authorities of Lowndes perform their duty



in this important matter, or will they permit the offenders to go free on the groundless pretense of justifiable circumstances? The state has a real duty to perform in this aggravating case. If it fails to do so, it will confess that in the executive capacity of law enforcement it is a farce that is of little or no value to the hundreds of thousands of law-abiding people who support it.

## DISPATCH

Pittsburg, Pa.

## The Crime of the South

The sentencing of a white man to what is practically life imprisonment—technically 99 years—for an attack upon a Negro girl in Arkansas is another hopeful sign to be added to that of the judge and prosecuting attorney in Kentucky jeopardizing their lives to protect a Negro prisoner, and Governor Stanley's prompt steps to subdue and disperse the mob which threatened both. Acts of this kind lessen the lawless gap between the white man and the black in the South, which is more responsible for mob violence than the character of the crimes of which the Negro victims are accused, although that is never given as the motive for lynchings.

Once the whites of the South have relocated their racial viewpoint and conceded the legal and political privileges of the black man to be on their own level, the wild ravagings of mobs may be expected to decline and ultimately disappear. The change may not display itself suddenly, but incidents of the character of those at Murray, Ky, and Ashdown, Ark, may be accepted as advance testimony that the new judgment is not impossible and may have made a beginning.

If the whites of the South can be brought to admit the duties of the law and its officials, whether the immediate issue is protection of the rights of a black man or white, crimes of whites against blacks in the name of law and order will speedily become fewer. When the lynching of a black man changes from a favorite pastime to an offense which white officials will punish to the limit, the "protection of the firesides" will assume far different means.

When a white man is sentenced to prison for 99 years, a life sentence, for an attack upon a Negro girl, it may be a beginning that will be followed by other punishments in which the act itself will count for more than the color of the skin of the man accused. The doctrine that the black man in the South has any privileges which the white neighbors are bound under the law to respect may not find easy progress, but if it persists in the stern fashion set out in this Arkansas case, the dictum that a man is a man, whatever his race, may become established where it is needed the most.

WASHINGTON D. C. BY WIRE  
AUGUST 27, 1917

## Virginia and the Mob.

Gov. Stuart of Virginia has acted with praiseworthy promptness and resolution in the matter of the accused of assailing two white women in Fairfax county. He has upheld the law, and announces a purpose still further to uphold it. The law is in his keeping. He is its principal representative in the commonwealth. He is a sworn officer. Said he yesterday at Richmond, where the accused is now in jail: "The negro will be protected if I have to call out every able-bodied man in Henrico county to do it."

That is the note of a brave man and conscientious official. It reflects the greatest credit on him, and particularly at this time. The crime alleged is the most hideous—the one of all others certain to stir the blood and suggest summary punishment. The country is at war, and excitement is high. A spark may set off a magazine anywhere. All the greater then, as Gov. Stuart sees, is the necessity for lawful and orderly processes of every kind.

The law covers this case, and, abhorrent as it is, the case should be disposed of by the law. There is not the slightest danger of a miscarriage of justice by leaving the case to the law. The courts are open, and delay is out of the question. If the prisoner is guilty, his punishment is as sure as sunrise.

Virginia is justly proud of her record for law and order. Until recently—a solitary instance was then recorded—the state had been free for nearly a score of years from the reproach of lynching. Grave crimes had been committed within her borders, but in every case the law had been permitted to take its course.

Gov. Stuart is nearing the end of his term. His successor will be chosen in November. In a few weeks the state will be the scene of a strenuous political campaign. There are issues on which the people are divided, and which should command their whole attention.

At this time of all times, therefore, the mob spirit should not be allowed to assert itself. Let all lawful processes run. Let all crimes be punished, but punished through the agencies designated for the purpose. Mob rule is a remedy for nothing needing remedy, but an incitement to disorders and excesses of all kinds.

SPRINGFIELD MASS UNION

NOVEMBER 25, 1917

Gov. McCall and That West Virginia Negro.

Because it was so unusual, and, be

it said, so audacious, the action of Gov. McCall in refusing extradition in the case of a negro fugitive charged with committing a crime in West Virginia was bound to create an extraordinary situation and invite widespread criticism. More than any number of lynchings, this action tends to direct general notice to the question of getting decent justice for a negro at the hands of Southern communities. That this is a good deal of a problem will not be denied by any candid person conversant with affairs.

Thus far West Virginia has not been regarded as a State where extreme prejudice exists against Negroes, and there appears to be no general grounds on which to base a feeling of distrust in relation to its courts of law. For these reasons, one is moved to believe that Gov. McCall's unusual course must have been actuated by extraordinary reasons, which have not as yet been definitely revealed. Unofficial reports say that a state of mob psychology has seized the community to which it is sought to remove the accused Negro, and that the district attorney of the county had asked for 100 deputies for the protection of the prisoner on his arrival. Other testimony indicates a rather weak case against the accused.

The fact remains that the man is under indictment, brought in the regular way, and for a crime that in the ordinary course calls for extradition. To refuse extradition is to impeach the integrity of the West Virginia courts, and to engender a by no means pleasant feeling between the two States. In a way, as all have said, the case is a challenge to the South in relation to the brand of justice dispensed to the colored race. To many it will seem an invitation to the Negroes to come into States where they can find protection. It is by no means evident that this confidence is justified by any fair comparison between the two sections, and it is strongly apparent that sympathy with the Negro race had no proper part in determining executive action in the matter.

Under the Constitution, the governor of West Virginia appears to have been justified in asking for the extradition of the fugitive, and his State must be presumed, in the absence of specific evidence to the contrary, to be prepared to discharge properly its own part. As Gov. McCall is not given to hasty and irresponsible action, it is but fair to suppose that his decision was based on cogent considerations which, once brought to public knowledge, will explain a course that has puzzled the observer.

424—CHICAGO STANDARD  
JUNE 16, 1917

One of the most gruesome lynchings which has ever taken place in any southern city occurred in Memphis, Tenn., last month. According to the press reports, thousands of persons gathered to see the horrible spectacle. The charge was for rape and murder, although there was no reasonable proof

## The Disgrace of Memphis

of the guilt of the Negro who became the victim of the mob's rage. The mother of the dead girl was brought to the stake to see the torch applied and when some of the members of the mob proposed shooting the Negro before setting fire to him, a woman relative of the dead girl screamed: "Let him suffer ten million pains to pay for the death." Whereat a cheer arose from the mob. None of the mob was masked and many were well known throughout the county. The immediate result has been a sheaf of editorials throughout the South, as well as in the North, condemning in no uncertain terms this disgrace to civilization. We have a growing feeling that on the whole public sentiment throughout the South is slowly but surely improving with regard to lynching. We still think so, in spite of what took place at Memphis. But we confess to being baffled by the apparent failure of the churches to influence public opinion. It is undoubtedly true that the percentage of population in Memphis affiliated with the churches is three or four times what it is in most northern cities of the same size. How does it happen that the Christian forces of Memphis, which must be considerable, have not long ago created a public sentiment which would have made impossible such a community disgrace?

BOSTON MASS JOURNAL  
AUGUST 2, 1917

## THE BEAM IN OUR NATIONAL EYE

Lynching is a peculiarly American institution. It is found only in the United States. Its habitat is chiefly south of Mason and Dixon's line, but occasionally it is found in the border States and in the Great West. It has never yet occurred in New England. But this is not a boast.

Lynching, the common species, is reserved for black Americans by Americans of the superior race. It is alleged that it is inflicted by outraged white chivalry for crimes against women, but four-fifths of lynchings are for other offenses varying from innocence, through insolence and petty theft to murder. Variations of lynching include public burnings at the stake, where mothers bring their children, and peanut and popcorn vendors reap a harvest.

Occasionally lynchings are wholesale and for no specific crime, as at Atlanta a few years ago and at East St. Louis a few weeks past. But authorities differ as to whether these are really simon-pure lynchings or merely massacres.

Lynching—less common variety—is reserved for other "inferior" races

such as Italians, Jews, etc., but occasionally even an Anglo-Saxon is included. If the victim is a subject of a fair-sized foreign country there is apt to be trouble. Some of the lynchings may be prosecuted and even put in jail, and the victim's family is indemnified. If the victim is an American citizen, nothing happens.

The latest incidence of this form of Americanism occurred yesterday in Montana. The victim was Frank Little, an I. W. W. labor organizer. He was a cripple. He was taken from his hotel at night by masked men and hanged from a railroad trestle. No evidence is at hand that he violated any law for which he could be punished. On the other hand he may have been guilty of every crime in the code, and may have deserved every penalty—at the hands of the law. But the law had not seen fit to lay hands on him. The presumption of innocence was his. The lynchings are often as not guiltless of the crimes with which they are charged.

But their innocence, or guilt is immaterial. Lynching is always a crime.



# LYNCH-LAW AND TREASON

FRANK LITTLE may have "died for the cause of labor," as the New York *Call* asserts, but in Montana "all strata of society," according to the *Helena Independent*, "considered the death meted to the I. W. W. organizer a punishment for treasonable utterances rather than for anything he may have done in stirring up labor troubles." And this distinction is made by numerous other editors throughout the country who, tho deploring the manner of his taking off, incline to the belief that Little received his just deserts, and that his sudden end may prove a salutary warning. Montana opinion, we learn from the paper just quoted, generally holds that Butte "disgraced itself like a gentleman," when the I. W. W. leader was taken from his bed and hanged on the morning of August 1. The Boston *Transcript*, far from the mining-camps and the cowtowns of the Rockies, knows of "millions of people who, while sternly reprehending such proceedings as the lynching of members of that antipatriotic society, will nevertheless be glad, in their hearts, that Montana did it in the case of Little." "The howls of Industrial Workers of the World over the lynching of Little will find," so the Chicago *Tribune* believes, "no echo in any reasonable heart." And on the floor of the House of Representatives one Congressman asked if these members of the I. W. W. who have been charged with assassinations and threats of killing, "and who themselves declare that they owe no allegiance to the United States or to any other country, have any right to 'squeal' when citizens of this country hang one of them occasionally?"

Frank Little was a member of the Executive Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World; he had played a prominent part in the organization's activities in the far West, and was conspicuous in the events preceding the Arizona deportations. In Butte, a copper-mining center, he was trying, the New York *Call* says, "to organize the striking miners of that vicinity in their demand for better wages and improved working conditions." But the El Paso *Times* recalls that he used such "intemperate and seditious utterances" as—

"If the mines are taken under Federal control we will make it so damned hot for the Government that it will not be able to send any troops to France"; "a city ordinance is simply a piece of paper which can be torn up, and the same can be said of the Constitution of the United States." To the Governor of Arizona he said: "Governor, I don't give a damn what your country is fighting for; I am fighting for the solidarity of labor"; and referring to the American soldiers, he branded them "Uncle Sam's scabs in uniform."

But both phrase-making and organizing ended when six masked men entered Little's boarding-house early in the morning of August 1, and carried him out and hanged him to a railroad-trestle in the outskirts of Butte. When his body was found it bore a card with this inscription in red-crayon letters:

Others Take Notice  
First and Last Warning  
3-7-77. LDCSSWT.

The initials were held by some to refer to the lynchers, by

others to a list of intended victims of whom Little was the first. The figures are the old sign of the vigilantes of Montana's frontier days. As the *Helena Independent* remarks, it "sort of quickens the blood in the veins of some of the pioneers" of the State to see once more the fatal figures in print—"3-7-77." The unofficial sentiment of Montana, according to this daily, was expressed by a professional man, who said:

"I've called Butte home for thirty years. For the past fifteen I've apologized daily for my home town. I'll do less apologizing after this."

The *Independent* kept a record during the afternoon following the lynching "of the opinions expressed by a bartender, a lawyer, "WITH MY OWN BODY!"

LYNCHING is a cowardly business. In almost every case it is the work of a mob; and the essence of the mob spirit is cowardice. Time and again it has been shown that the antidote for mob cowardice is individual courage. A single fearless man, inspired with a sense of duty and justice, is more than a match for any but the most delirious mob of lawless and reckless men.

When Governor Stanley, of Kentucky, speeding across the state in a special train to the town of Murray, where a mob was threatening to lynch a judge and prosecuting officer for the heinous offense of postponing the trial of a negro charged with murder, said simply: "They will have a chance to lynch the Governor of Kentucky first," he displayed the spirit before which mob bravado runs up its true colors. He had only to face the mob and declare

"I am here to uphold the law and to protect this court, with my own body if necessary," to have the mob quail and slink away.

It took courage. For accidents sometimes happen when the mob spirit is aflame; and the crowd's lust for blood is a dangerous explosive which it requires but a spark to ignite. Governor Stanley took his life in his hand. He worked precisely because he held his life cheap beside his duty and his oath.

The Murray mob was ready to splash an indelible stain upon the state's fair name. But the bravery and self-forgetfulness of its Governor saved it from the disgrace. He has deserved well of the commonwealth. Kentucky owes him a debt of gratitude it will not find it easy to pay.

Constructive proposals for the suppression of lynchings and race riots like the recent ones in East St. Louis and Chester, Pa., are almost negligible in number and practicability. Prof. Kelly Miller of Howard university, in his recent letter to President Wilson on the present relations between the Negro and white races, advocates the immediate extension of the federal power so that lynchings and race riots in whatever locality may be directly dealt with by the federal government, regardless of the jurisdiction vested in the states by the constitution over disturbances of that character.

Prof. Miller is not unaware of the fact that American constitutional law affords no sanction for such a departure, for he clearly and accurately reviews this phase of the subject in saying:— I know that it has been steadily maintained that the federal government has no authority over lynchings and local race conflicts. This view was maintained under the administrations of Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft. Indeed, President Cleveland, that great American democrat, came nearer recognizing federal responsibility in such matters than any president before or since his time. During the administration of Pres-

ident McKinley, an atrocious riot occurred in Wilmington, N. C., the city in which you spent your boyhood as the son of a minister of the gospel. Scores of innocent Negroes were killed or driven from their homes. But it was maintained that the president had no authority to interfere. A horrible lynching took place at Alexandria, Va., a few miles from the White House, which the president might possibly have observed through his field glasses. And yet it was looked upon as a purely local affair for which the federal government had no responsibility nor concern.

You recall the atrocities of the riot in Atlanta, a city in which you spent your young manhood as a practitioner of law. But here again even President Roosevelt could find no ground for interference. We are not sure that Congress could not grant to the president certain specific powers to interfere in state jurisdictions, in time of war, for the promotion of law and order—these powers to run only for the duration of the war. It is possible that such powers could be so limited as to remove the appearance of a state of martial law in the country.

Prof. Miller resorts to the chief executive's "war powers," as they might be amplified by Congress, for a solution of the constitutional problem. The country is at war; race riots and lynchings are a form of lawlessness which threaten the nation's safety at this time because they embitter the relations of the white and colored races and tend to destroy the national unity in the face of a foreign enemy. He says, therefore:—

The time has come to make lawlessness a national issue, as a war measure if not for any higher consideration. As a patriotic and military necessity, I suggest that you ask the Congress of the United States to invest you with the power to prevent lynching and to quell lawlessness and violence in all parts of the country during the continuance of the war. The very breadth of this proposal may seem to make it impractical because virtually the only way to give to the president such sweeping power would be to place the entire country under martial law for the period of the war. Some of the European countries are now living under military rule—France and Germany, for example—while Great Britain is on middle ground, with certain civil guarantees of the British subject suspended by the defense of the realm act. In all those countries, of course, the central authority would act swiftly even in time of peace to suppress and punish riots or lynchings such as are left in America to the local authorities to deal with, however weak and cowardly those authorities may be.

If the emergency were grave enough, an epidemic of lawlessness in the United States in wartime would force virtual military rule upon the country through the suspension of habeas corpus and the president might follow Lincoln's precedent of suspending the writ without the authority of Congress. But the actual situation is so far from an emergency of that character that no such step can be regarded as possible. America is so far from the European war



## The Butte Lynching.

The lynching of a member of the I. W. W. at Butte, Montana, is to be deplored. Mob law is contrary to the spirit of American institutions and can rarely, if ever, be defended. Even the serious national exigencies that now confront the American people do not warrant the disregard of law and the abrogation of the courts which lynching involves. **YOUNGSTOWN O TELEGRAM**

This lynching, however, is probably the legitimate outcome of the vicious nature of recent I. W. W. activities. The I. W. W. has disregarded law and promoted rioting and disloyalty wherever possible. The fact that these incendiary people are liberally supplied with money now, where six months ago they had little, if any, justifies the suspicion that their vicious propaganda is being financed by German spies and sympathizers. If such is the case, no time should be lost in suppressing the entire movement as seditious and treasonable.

In deprecating the lynching, we do not lessen one whit our condemnation of the vicious and unwarranted methods of the I. W. W. But the law ought to be broad enough to secure the punishment of men who are using every means to hamper and interfere with the war activities of the nation. If it is not, congress ought speedily to make it so.

In this connection, it may be permitted us to say that the action of Justice Brandeis of the supreme court, an appointee of President Wilson, in releasing notorious New York anarchists, Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, on bail, pending a new trial, after they had been convicted and sent to the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, is the sort of legal soft-heartedness and technical quibbling which makes the American people impatient of the courts and often leads to such lynchings as that at Butte.

The courts as well as the American people, ought to realize that the nation is engaged in a great war. This is not the time for any legal quibbling if men or women join in movements that aim to prevent the proper conduct of that war. Whether vicious activities take the form of the Goldman attempt in New York to discourage enlistments and create disturbances over the selective conscription of men for the army, or are directed toward reducing the productive capacity of the farms, mills and mines of the nation by manufactured strikes and seditious disturbances, they are essentially the same. Both are treasonable, and the government and the courts must use the strong arm of the law without hesitation or technical quibbling to punish and prevent acts that clearly and distinctly aim to give aid and comfort to the enemy.

With no intention to criticize the administration, it is timely, we believe, to say in this connection that the department of justice has been slow in moving against activities which, like those of the I. W. W., seem clearly to mask sedition and treason.

## Lynching Defeats Justice

AUGUST 2, 1917

**T**HE lynching of an I. W. W. leader out west is a deplorable incident, because such outbreaks of mob rule are always subversive of real justice.

Lynching is never justifiable, no matter what the circumstances.

No matter how richly this pervert of American citizenship deserved his fate, the authorities should have been left to deal with him.

No right-thinking citizen will seek to excuse the blundering of the mob that dragged Little from his bed and hanged him.

The perpetrators of this crime have outraged the laws of society in even greater degree than has ever been charged against their victim.

And the sternest measures should be employed to prevent a repetition of this recurrence of the brute in human nature, whose counterpart the nation but recently witnessed in the murder and outrage of hundreds of negroes at East St. Louis.

In both instances public authorities are very largely to blame for what happened.

If the civil authorities of Arizona and Montana had taken the I. W. W. hordes in hand and throttled their criminal practices at the beginning, the foul tragedy of yesterday would never have cast its blot of shame upon the commonwealth.

The duty of preserving order and of compelling obedience to law reposes on the heads of public officers. They are elected for that purpose, and they are empowered to use whatever force may be necessary to achieve the objects of legal restrictions.

The I. W. W. outlaws have been among the most notorious elements of criminality in the nation for years. They have been permitted to grow in numbers and activities until they are now a serious menace to the well-being of many communities.

They should be put down with the strong arm of the law.

## NEGROES PROTEST TO THE PRESIDENT

### Implore Protection from Mob Violence

### URGE NATIONAL ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Delegation Asks "Some Public Word" from Mr. Wilson that Would Give Hope and Courage to the Colored People—States "Unable or Unwilling to Put Down Lynchings."

AUGUST 1, 1917

By DAVID LAWRENCE.

[Special Dispatch to The Evening Post.]

WASHINGTON, August 1.—Negroes of the nation carried to the White House to-day their protest against the atrocious

attacks made upon them at East St. Louis and other industrial centres recently. They appealed to President Wilson through Secretary Tumulty to speak "some public word" that would give hope and courage to the negroes of the United States.

Mr. Tumulty listened to the reading of a petition and promised the delegation which was headed by James Weldon Johnson, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that the matter would not be neglected. He told his callers also that the President had been in consultation with department officials concerning better protection for the negro citizens of the country. The delegation requested a personal interview with the President, which request Mr. Tumulty said he would place before Mr. Wilson.

#### MR. JOHNSON'S REMARKS.

The remarks of Mr. Johnson in addressing Secretary Tumulty were as follows:

"We, the Committee of the Negro Silent Protest Parade, in which 15,000 col-

ored men, women, and children took part last Saturday in New York, come to present to you and through you to the President and Congress a petition for redress of certain grievances. We come representing not only the Negro Silent Protest Parade, but the colored people of Greater New York and the sentiments and aspirations and sorrows, too, of the entire negro population of the United States.

"We come representing twelve million citizens whose devotion and loyalty to the nation have never been questioned—twelve million citizens who, when the present storm broke over our land, took their unqualified stand side by side with the original American stocks that landed at Plymouth Rock and at Jamestown.

"We feel that in coming to you, we are well within our rights—the right given by birth, the right given by labor, and the right given by loyalty. We feel, further, that it is especially fitting that we come at this time when the heart of the nation is so deeply touched by the cause of democracy and of humanity.

"We come asking that the President use his great powers to have granted to us some redress for the grievances set forth in our petition, and we come, further, praying that the President may find it in his heart to speak some public word that will give hope and courage to our people, thus using his great personal and moral influence in our behalf.

"And to these ends, I have the honor to read and respectfully present the following petition:

To the President and Congress of the United States:

"We, the Committee of the Negro Silent Protest Parade, representing the colored people of Greater New York and the sentiment of the people of negro descent throughout this land, come to you to present a petition for redress of grievances.

"In the last thirty-one years 2,867 colored men and women have been lynched by mobs without trial. Less than half a dozen persons out of the tens of thousands involved have received any punishment whatsoever for these crimes, and not a single one has been punished for murder. In addition to this mobs have harried and murdered colored citizens time and time again with impunity, culminating in the latest atrocity at East St. Louis where nearly a hundred innocent, hardworking citizens were done to death in broad daylight for seeking to earn an honest living.

"We believe that this spirit of lawlessness is doing untold injury to our country and we submit that the record proves that the States are either unwilling or unable to put down lynching and mob violence.

"We ask, therefore, that lynching and mob violence be made a national crime punishable by the laws of the United States and that this be done by Federal enactment, or if necessary, by consti-

tutional amendment. We believe that there can be found in recent legislation abundant precedent for action of this sort, and whether this be true or not, no nation that seeks to fight the battles of civilization can afford to march in blood-stained garments.

"We ask, therefore, immediate action by the Congress and the President of the United States.  
(Signed) REV. F. A. CULLEN, Chairman.  
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON, Vice-Chairman.  
Rev. Charles D. Martin, John E. Nail, treasurer; Rev. E. W. Daniel, Rev. Geo.



## Discussions

## Laxity and Lynching.

Of course, no law-abiding citizen condones lynching, no matter who the victim may be.

Mob rule can't be tolerated in any community, although it must be confessed that those who are sworn to execute the laws and prosecute evil-doers are themselves not wholly guiltless in many cases.

Laxity in law-enforcement affords the excuse for such outrages as that at Butte, Montana, where Frank Little, one of the leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World, was hanged by masked men.

The excuse was insufficient to justify such an act, it is true, yet it may serve a useful purpose if it awakens the government to a realization of the gravity of the menace that confronts it in the form of I. W. W. agitators and other pro-German agents in this country.

It is inexplicable that the authorities of the federal and state governments should deal so leniently and so listlessly with spies and trouble-makers.

The need of drastic action has been apparent for months, but the condition of indifference persists.

We have had an opportunity to profit by the mistakes England made early in the war, and it was presumed that we were alive to that advantage, but it is evident that we still have much to learn when it comes to dealing with spies and traitors.

Take the I. W. W., for instance. Is there any doubt that this band of thugs and murderers should be broken up at the earliest possible moment? And was there ever a better time to start the clean-up process than right now?

Frank Little probably deserved the death he got. But he should have been executed only after a fair trial. Now let the duly appointed prosecutors go after the other leaders without delay.

The United States secret service has

plenty of evidence on which to base wholesale arrests, and that there is a wide field for aggressive prosecution is shown by the statement that fully 250,000 men throughout the country are engaged in a systematic effort to interfere with our war preparations.

The leaders in this movement are believed to be Germans or men closely affiliated with German agents. The amount of money that is being spent is evidence that there is still a big fund available in this country for the forwarding of Germany's interests.

That the I. W. W. has already done serious harm is seen in the fact that more than twenty-five per cent. of the copper mines in the United States are already closed because of the organization's activities in fomenting labor troubles.

Copper, it may be remarked, is absolutely essential to the success of the allies because of its wide use in the making of projectiles.

Every industry that has been injured by the I. W. W. has a direct relation to the war.

This organization has burned canneries, tied up mines and tried to cripple the lumber industry, which is so important a factor just now in the building of that big merchant fleet by which we hope to circumvent the submarines.

Furthermore, it has been definitely established that nearly all the fires in the wheat fields of the west were started by I. W. W. leaders.

### ASKS SUPPRESSION OF MOBS.

Head of Negro Institute Appeals to Nineteen Governors.

DURHAM, N. C., July 5.—James E. Sheppard, president of the National Training School here, one of the largest negro educational institutions in the South, to-day issued an appeal to Governors of nineteen States and to fifty-two leading newspapers throughout the country asking their cooperation in suppression mob violence to the negro race.

AKRON O. TIMES  
SEPTEMBER 4, 1917

## LYNCHING AND FEDERAL LAW

For many years the writer has contended that the one effective way of dealing with the evil of lynching is thru the power of the federal government. The obvious weakness of dealing with mobs thru local officials and local juries is the tendency of "justice" to be colored or swayed by local sentiment. It may be presumed, in most cases, that where mob feeling is strong enough to wreak its purpose, it is condoned by the majority, either thru agreement in sentiment or fear. Juries will be found "following the crowd" and officers will be found with their eyes on the weather-vane.

The chief objection to federal jurisdiction in the case of lynchings and kindred mob crimes has been the encroachment of federal upon state prerogatives. A bill drafted by a negro lawyer of Massachusetts, however, and said to have the sponsorship of Senator Lodge, appears to overcome this objection by giving the state priority in the punishment of mob crimes, and giving the federal government jurisdiction only after the state had failed in its duty. The bill is quoted thus:

If two or more persons in any state, district or territory of the United States conspire to lynch, burn, murder or maim any citizen of the United States, or to deprive any citizen of the United States of his right to migrate from one state or territory of the United States, or to any foreign state or territory, and the local authorities of any such state, territory or district shall within three months from the date of such offense fail, neglect or refuse to bring to justice such persons so conspiring, such persons shall be deemed guilty of an offense against the United States cognizable in the federal court having jurisdiction of such state, territory or district, and each of such persons shall upon conviction of such offense be punished by imprisonment for not more than 20 years; or if loss of life results from such conspiracy, each of such persons, so conspiring shall be punished by imprisonment for life, or by death, at the option of the jury.

This may or may not meet constitutional requirements, but it would seem worthy of serious consideration by congress. Lynching is not confined to any area of the United States and shows no signs of serious abatement. So long as the states have shown incapacity to deal with the evil, why should not the general government take a hand in protecting its citizens in all the states?

## Atrocities in U. S. Exceed Germany's, Pacifists Charge

### Negro Lynchings, Enslavement of Labor and Liberty of Postoffice Denounced

NYC TRIBUNE  
AUGUST 2, 1917

Statements that American citizens in the lynching of negroes "have committed more atrocities than the Ger-

mans," that the I. W. W. deportations in the Southwest "were worse than the deportations from Belgium" and that the only liberty in this country "in wartime was that enjoyed by the Postoffice Department" were wildly cheered by 2,200 persons at a pacifist mass meeting held at Madison Square Garden last night by the Workmen's Council for the Maintenance of Labor's Rights and the People's Council.

Samuel Gompers was booed and hissed for his actions as a member of the Committee on National Defence, which were declared to be antagonistic to the interests of organized labor, and Representative Jeanette Rankin was vociferously cheered because, it was said, she had discovered that girls

### Changed to Peace Plea

The meeting was called expressly to protest against the Postoffice Department's denial of the use of the mails to certain radical publications, but it had not been long under way before it developed into an avowed peace meeting. When Jacob Panken, the chairman, pulled off his coat, rolled up his sleeves and, shaking his clenched fists, vigorously declared, "We want to maintain the freedom of the press so that we can give voice to our wish for an immediate peace," people stood on chairs and yelled approvingly. Demands for the repeal of the conscription law provoked a like demonstration.

Mr. Panken launched into a denunciation of Mr. Gompers and Ernest Bohm, secretary of the Central Federated Union, both of whom started an investigation to determine whether there is German influence behind the Workmen's Council.

"We have no quarrel with the American Federation of Labor," shouted Mr. Panken. "The bodies that compose the Workmen's Council are affiliated with the federation and to quarrel with the latter would be to quarrel with ourselves. But we do assert that in this time of war the heads of the labor movement have not expressed the sentiments of their followers."

### Say Gompers Overstepped

"We did not authorize Mr. Gompers as a member of the Committee on National Defence to send out a call to every legislature in the Union suggesting that all labor laws safeguarding the lives and limbs of workers and protecting their hours of labor be suspended."

"As for our all being German spies, of course Mr. Bohm is not pro-German, nor has he a German name. Mr. Bohm never took German money in a peace movement except, of course, as he testified in the Lamar case, for circulars and like expenses."

Every time the labor leaders' names were mentioned the audience broke into a chorus of boos.

Max Eastman, editor of "the Masses," delivered a speech bristling with epigrams and each epigram aroused applause. Among his assertions were:

"The only liberties that I have been acutely conscious of in the last two months are the liberties the New York Postoffice has taken with my private mail. The only people who are free to say all the foolish things they want to are the officials of the government and Hudson Maxim."

### More Atrocities Here

"We bloody-handed Americans are going out on a virtuous crusade to rid the world of German atrocities. The United States has a more extended record of atrocities to her credit than any other country in the civilized world. The average number of negroes lynched or otherwise murdered or mutilated to death in this country since 1885 is one in every four days."

"Just while we are setting out in our righteousness, to avenge the Belgian deportations upon the German kaiser, our own kaiser, acting in the person of the Phelps-Dodge Corporation, rounds up 150 free citizens of the republic in a corral, and, silencing their protests with a club, herds them into a train of cattle cars and ships them



into the middle of the desert. Our army has to go and rescue its own citizens from its own kaisers and try to find something else to do with them besides send them home clothed in their rights, which is the one thing it does not do."

Daniel Kiefer, chairman of the Federal Commission, denounced the suppression of radical newspapers as "the work of some little bureaucrat in the Postoffice Department."

James P. Warbasse and "a church" each gave \$1,000 to a fund to be used in legal contests with the Postoffice Department.

## NEGROES PLEAD FOR ANTI-LYNCH ACTION

Petition President Wilson For Relief from Attacks Made On Colored People.  
**NYC CALL**  
 AUGUST 2, 1917

Washington, Aug. 1.—A delegation of New York negroes, representing the Negroes' Silent Protest Parade Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, called at the White House today and requested President Wilson, through Secretary Tumulty, to give some "public word" that would express his opinion on the lynching of Negroes in East St. Louis. President Wilson did not meet the delegation in person, but Tumulty promised to convey their message to him.

The message, which is contained in a petition to the Congress, as well as to the President, reads in part:

"In the last 31 years 2,867 colored men and women have been lynched by mobs without trial. Less than half a dozen persons out of the tens of thousands involved have received any punishment whatsoever for these crimes, and not a single one has been punished for murder. In addition to this, mobs have harried and murdered colored citizens time and time again with impunity, culminating in the latest atrocity at East St. Louis, where nearly a hundred hard-working citizens were done to death in broad daylight for seeking to earn an honest living.

"We ask, therefore, that lynching and mob violence be made a national crime punishable by the laws of the United States; and that this be done by federal enactment, or, if necessary, by constitutional amendment. We believe that there can be found in recent legislation abundant precedent for action of this sort, and whether this be true or not, no nation that seeks to fight the battles of civilization can afford to march in blood-smear'd garments."

**WILSON MASS JOURNAL**  
 AUGUST 4, 1917

**Lynch Law—It Is Spreading  
 Because Unchecked**

To the Editor of The Journal:

I read with interest and appreciation the editorial contained in Thursday morning's Journal under the caption, "The Beam in Our National Eye." This editorial patently reveals the alarming

growth and the inevitable danger of lynching.

At first Southerners took the law into their own hands to avenge crimes committed against white women. But today a Negro may be lynched on mere suspicion of having committed any offense ranging from misdemeanor to murder.

In fact innocent Negroes have been lynched just because the bloodthirsty mob was bent on lynching a Negro, innocent or guilty.

Now no longer is lynching confined to the South; no longer is the institution content to harvest its victims from among the members of the Negro race. Lynching is on its way North; white men have begun to lynch white men; seemingly they have begun to doubt the efficacy of the law.

Lynching, you say, Mr. Editor, is peculiarly an American institution. I am, however, led to believe by your trenchant editorials against lynching that you regard lynching, not as an institution to which we may point with pardonable pride, but, on the contrary, an institution that puts us to embarrassment when we advocate that justice be done the weaker nations and weaker races without the confines of America.

Now that you have put so strikingly before the American people lynching as it is, in all its phases, it is to be hoped that they will be awakened from their indifference and appreciate the national danger.

For there is no factor more potent in its destruction of civilization than the mob spirit, and the mob spirit is making rapid strides in America.

The present is the time for us to say law and order must prevail and the mob spirit must go.

I sincerely believe that if the church, the State and the press were united in a determined and continuous effort to arouse public conscience to a true appreciation of the danger of lynching, which is now a national crime, lynching could be stamped out.

I cannot reach the conclusion that this country is not big enough for white men and black men to live together, side by side, with a maximum of good will and a minimum of friction.

This is possible when the church, the State and the press assume their responsibilities.

The Negro must not be made to feel that in order to assure safety of life and property his home must be transformed into a veritable arsenal. He must, on the contrary, be made to feel that his safety is assured by the strength and majesty of the law and the swift and sure punishment of those who persecute him.

**EGBERT T. MORRIS GORDON**  
 300 Madison Street, Aug. 1

## SOCIALISTS PLAN PEACE MAGAZINE

**NYC CALL**  
 AUGUST 2, 1917  
**Hand-to-Hand Circulation  
 to Foil Postoffice Mail  
 Ban Is Scheme.**

A new anti-war magazine for the publication of which \$4,500 was subscribed by 3,000 Socialists at a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden last night, is soon to appear as a substitute for the sixteen Socialist publications suppressed

by the Postoffice department.

The new magazine, according to announcements by Jacob Panken, who presided, and of the Workman's Council under whose auspices it was held, is to be circulated from hand to hand to overcome the postoffice censorship.

### SAMPLE FROM LA FOLLETTE.

It is planned to obtain articles from the Council of Workmen's and Soldier's delegates in Russia, and similar organizations in all other nations, including Germany.

An article by Senator La Follette was read to the audience just before the vote to publish the magazine was passed. It called upon the people to fight now as never before to sustain their civil liberties. The article was described as a sample of what the new magazine would contain.

The vote to publish then went through with rising cheers. Verbal attacks on the government for closing the mails to Socialist publications were wildly applauded by the 3,000 people present.

### SAYS PAPERS WERE FEARED.

"They suppressed these papers," asserted Dr. Frederick A. Blossom, editor of "Facts," one of the barred publications, "not because they feared information would be given to the enemy, but because they did not dare to meet here at home the issue of industrial democracy and other domestic issues raised by these papers. The government suppressed these papers because it was afraid of them."

"But the man in the street knows that the best way to spread truth is to try to suppress it. The man in Wall street fails to understand this only because he is blinded by the glitter of gold. The papers are suppressed because the government has no answer but the club to the idea they expressed, and when they suppressed 'The Masses' they drew such attention to its articles that they reached a hundred persons to one they otherwise could have reached."

### CHEERS FOR MAX EASTMAN.

Max Eastman, editor of "The Masses," received the loudest applause of the night when he said, "The only liberties of which I have been acutely conscious in the last two months have been the liberties the New York postmaster has taken with my private mail."

"What is the use of fighting for democracy," said Mr. Eastman, amid an uproar of applause, "if every liberty we have must be abolished in order to wage war. If there is no democracy left in the world what is the use of making the world safe for democracy?"

### TALKS OF LYNCHINGS HERE.

"The United States has a more extended record of atrocities to her credit than any other civilized country."

The average number of negroes lynched or otherwise mutilated to death in this country since 1885 is one every four days.

"Another tragical hypocrisy is our righteous indignation about Belgian deportations. Just as we are setting out in our righteous indignation to avenge Belgian deportations upon the German Kaiser, our own Kaiser. In the person of the Phelps Dodge corporation, rounds up 150 free citizens of the republic in a corral, ignoring the tears of their wives and

children and silencing their protests with clubs.

"They suppress our papers because we insist on remembering that in every country there are kaisers to overthrow, and we refuse to devote our exclusive attention to the kaisers of Europe."

### PANKEN ATTACKS GOMPERS.

Jacob Panken, in paying his respects to the American Federation of Labor, assailed Samuel Gompers with much bitterness.

"May the Lord forgive me," he said, "for referring to Gompers as a labor leader."

He predicted that in a short time the Socialist movement in America will become the organized political weapon of the working classes just as it is in Europe, and that the Gompers control over organized labor was crumbling.

### EVENING POST

New York City

## HAS INVESTIGATED LYNCHINGS

**Advancement Association Has Bought  
 Problem Home to Nation,  
 Says Spingarn.**

By far the most striking achievement of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, during the year 1916, has been to make lynching assume the proportions, in the public mind, of a national problem, according to Dr. Joel E. Spingarn, in his report as chairman of the board of directors at the annual meeting of the Association held this afternoon in the Assembly Hall of the United Charities Building, 105 East 22d Street.

"Lynching has been injected into the national consciousness," he said, "even in the midst of world war, Mexico, and a Presidential election; and we enter 1917 equipped to carry on the fight with more vigor than ever was possible before."

Four notable investigations had been conducted, he said; that of the lynchings and terrorism which drove 2,500 colored men, women, and children out of Dawson and Forsyth Counties, Ga., "an American pogrom," of which the Cherokee fires were but the aftermath; that of the "Waco Horror," when on May 8 Jesse Washington was burned alive in the public square at Waco, Tex., with 15,000 people looking on; that of the lynching of two women and three men near Gainesville, Fla., for aiding Bolsey Long, accused of hog stealing, to escape; and that of the Abbeville, S. C., lynching last autumn. These investigations were made possible by the raising of a fund of \$10,000 to which both whites and negroes contributed in about equal measure.

At the session this afternoon the following were elected members of the board of directors for the term expiring January, 1920: Jane Addams, Chicago; Dr. C. E. Bentley, Chicago; the Rev. Hutch-

ins C. Bishop, New York; Dr. F. N. Cardoso, Baltimore; Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, New York; Mrs. Florence Kelley, New York; Mary White Ovington, Brooklyn; Charles Edward Russell, Washington; Dr. John G. Underhill, Brooklyn; and Irene Lewisohn, New York. The evening session will be held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 212 West 134th Street. It will be given over to a discussion of the problems of the branch associations and the reports of their representatives. The annual convention will be held this year in Cleveland, O., probably in April.

**GRAND RAPIDS MICH NWE**  
 SEPTEMBER 14, 1917

## HA. LY A "LYNCHING"

The excitable correspondents at Coldwater who called the death meted out to the slayer of the Branch county sheriff a "lynching," probably tugged a trifle too hard at the line of truth. The word "lynch" looks good in print, but in this instance the death sentence seems to have been imposed with more justice upon a criminal who had cruelly slain an officer of the law, then barricaded himself in his own house and threatened the life of any man who tried to arrest him. There was little else to do than to end the existence of the morose, crabbed Van Tassel, who could get along with nobody and who always wanted his own way, even if the lives of other persons had to pay forfeit.

When the people, assembled as a mere mob, take the law into their own hands, as the farmers of California township, Branch county, did early Thursday morning, we witness the crudest example of law enforcement. In settled, civilized days, we delegate to the sheriff the duty of arresting—sometimes dead or alive—the criminal who has transgressed the highest laws. In times of stress we revert back to the primitive days, when the community enforced its penalties through the exercise of the combined force of all. And it is the abuse of the privileges accorded under the law to all offenders that so often stimulates the public, acting as an unorganized mob, to wreak its righteous vengeance upon the murderer. And after an exhibition of this kind, it usually is noticeable that officers of the law manifest a higher regard for the law, and more expedition in its enforcement.



Lynchings - 1917

## Discussion Nation

New York City

MAR 1 1917

LYNCHING even of guilty persons is revolting, but what words can express the horror with which one reads of the lawless execution of the innocent? Yet, as if her record of mob violence were not black enough, Georgia finds that she has added to it this last touch of barbarism. A year ago, a negro named Keith was saved by county officers from a mob bent upon lynching him for his alleged part in the murder of a Sheriff. Five other negroes were killed by the mob. Keith was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to a life term. Then new evidence was discovered, which showed that neither Keith nor any of the five men who had been lynched was guilty. Keith received his freedom at the hands of a white jury, but not all the willingness in the world to do justice could bring back the five murdered men from their graves. "What a commentary upon the accursed institution of lynching!" the Atlanta Constitution exclaims. But this is a case in which the innocence of the victims was established. How many cases are there in which the fact of lynching ended investigation which might have shown similar guiltlessness in other suspected persons? No wonder that the Constitution demands: "How long are the decent, law-abiding citizens of Georgia going to tolerate this disgraceful, barbaric practice—which is the foulest blot upon the name of the State to-day?"

POST

Cincinnati Ohio

## Cure For Lynching?

Has Governor A. O. Stanley of Kentucky discovered a preventive for lynching, and a very simple one at that?

This query is prompted by the failure of a Murray (Ky.) mob to lynch a negro accused of having killed a policeman. Quickness of thought and action on the part of the governor doubtless prevented rioting and bloodshed.

The Kentucky executive did not resort to stereotyped methods when informed of the trouble at Murray. He didn't burn up the wires with orders for deputies to proceed to the scene of the disturbance. He didn't confront the Murray mob with ranks of armed men instructed to shoot their fellow Kentuckians if the situation became critical.

He hurried to Murray himself and announced to the vengeance-seeking mob that "I

will give you a chance to hang the governor of Kentucky, but will protect the prisoner with my life."

The mob's anger soon cooled off. Its bluff had been called by one determined man—a man who met an unusual situation in an unusual way.

Let us hope that other governors will profit by the Kentucky governor's example and that more similar situations will be met in a manner as determined and effective.

Journal

Fort Wayne, Ind

JAN 13 1917

## Like Cobb's Judge Better.

Our hat off and our hand extended to Governor A. O. Stanley, of Kentucky. We regret exceedingly it is not possible to pass our humble compliments on to Circuit Judge Charles Bush, of Murray, in that same state. Governor Stanley—single-handed, as you might say in a story—went to Murray and read the riot act to and dispersed a mob from which the judge had been taking his orders. Kentucky's militia is doing duty guarding our threatened border from depredatory greasers and therefore is not available for guarding negro murderers and lynchers back home. In consequence of this situation Governor Stanley was under necessity to do his own job of warding the state's authority, upholding its laws and saving its good name. He did it with splendid courage and resource—for which his people should approve him and for which Judge Bush should feel eternal gratitude. The mob might have made the judge jump the rope after it had done with the negro the mob compelled the judge to bring back to town where the lynchers could lay hands on him when ready.

The affair involving Judge Bush brings to mind another Kentucky jurist of somewhat different type. You will recall him—Judge Billy Priest, who owes existence to the fertile imagination of Irvin S. Cobb, who has exploited the quaint and lovable old fellow in many a good story. One day a mob formed in Judge Priest's town and fared forth with the laudable purpose of lynching a homicidal person. There was nobody to prevent—no militia, no constabulary, not even a governor—and that resolute party of good citizens was headed straight up street to the lockup, where the fellow that needed killing was confined. Word of what was afoot was borne to Judge

White Press (North)

Priest and that ancient worthy of the law and Bed Forrest's rebel cavalry went downtown toting his pistol. He drew a line across the street in the deep dust and between that line and the lockup took his stand. When the mob approached Judge Priest drew a long breath and his gun. Then he proceeded to reason with his fellow citizens about the law, justice, the wickedness of mobs, the sin of lynchings and the pistol he held. At the conclusion of this judicial homily he invited some one of the party to be the first man to step across that narrow line trenched in the dust of the road. No one sought the distinction and after the men of the mob had tried vainly to look Judge Priest and his pistol squarely in the eye, they dispersed. And next day all of them were quite pleased that they had been backed off by one unafraid old man whose respect for the law and whose courage of conviction had made him a legion.

Judge Billy Priest is just a character out of a story, but we see something of the like of him in Governor Stanley, of Kentucky. No doubt there are plenty of jurists in the south—and north, too—who would not raise the white flag for the mob and then tuck tail to let the mob have its way. Judge Bush could as readily have awed the cowards at Murray as Governor Stanley did it. The courage of the mob is collective. It rests in numbers. Let its courage begin to ooze and panic follows fast. The Murray judge missed opportunity for high performance and a name. He was not Judge Billy Priest—though he had a fine chance to be and add one more incident to the accumulated proof that truth is always running a better race than fiction.

From a Negro Soldier.

AUGUST 3, 1917

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: Being thousands of miles in far-off Hawaii Islands, it takes some time for me to hear the bad and good occurrences in the States. Five or six days ago I read the report of the shameful lynching in the city of Memphis. A man was burned to death. He was born under the flag that flies on the wings of the air in Tennessee. He was entitled to justice, and should not have been deprived of his life without due process of law.

Article six of the Constitution reads: "In all criminal prosecutions the accused should enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and causes of the accusation; to

be confronted with witnesses against him; to have compulsory process of obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have counsel for his defence."

I have placed my life at stake for the white women of Tennessee as much as I have for the white women of Ohio or any other State. I have taken the oath of allegiance to defend the nation. Tennessee is a part of the Union, and her action means to us on the other side of the world that we are not fighting for the sake of humanity. Why? Because we are doing far lower deeds than the people whom we claim to be barbarians. To my knowledge Germany has never burned a man to get his fingers, ears, and other parts of his body for souvenirs.

In the past Tennessee and her sister States have been able to put up an excuse. For the lack of proper identification they could never bring lynchers to account in the courts. This time, what kind of an excuse will she give to the people? If reports are true, the lynchers made no effort to hide their identity; they did not wear their masks. What then? If no man is convicted in this case, every court in the State should be exterminated, and the statute books thrown in the Mississippi River.

Memphis has Maddox School for Young Women and the College of Christian Brothers. To me her Christianity is very poor. That horrible lynching has not left an inch of ground on which a professor of either school could muster up stamina enough to lecture to her class on the theory of religion. Every minister should feel himself a hypocrite. Why? Because all of them kept silence. If reports are true, the mob leader made known what he was going to do. Parents excused their children from the schools to see the execution.

Ignorant as I may be, I am too proud to hate any living man; too proud to give what I am not willing to accept. Under no condition would I do an act knowing that it would degrade the Government of the United States of America. I am a soldier in heart and action, and will stand behind the machine-rifle pressing the trigger until every finger is shot off, be wounded, or killed to keep Old Glory flying, though under it many of my race bear the strain of American ostracism. May a better day come!

Private WELLINGTON H. LAMPLEY,  
Machine-Gun Company, 25th Regiment  
U. S. A.

Schofield Barracks, Honolulu, June 20.



# A DRIVER LYNCHED

They lynched a negro in Texas the other day because the automobile driven by him, and containing others of his race celebrating emancipation day, ran down and killed a little girl. It was a novelty in lynchings. The annals of this southern custom contain numerous remarkable explanations of lynchings, but so far as is known the Texas instance is the first case in which a bloodthirsty mob has recognized the motor car as an instrument of murder.

The thing must seem most outlandish to residents of this region. Hereabouts automobile killings are not treated as of capital consequence. If the driver who runs down and kills a child or adult has the presence of mind to stop, pick up his victim, drive to a hospital and tell a coherent story, he is absolved from blame as a rule. If, instead, he becomes frightened and speeds away, the police may hunt for him, though generally without hope of success. Sometimes, it is true, charges of manslaughter are lodged. But then, they are sometimes quashed quite promptly by an entry of nolle prosequi made by a complaisant prosecutor. We believe the court records of the United States may be searched in vain for a sentence of execution or life imprisonment imposed in consequence of an automobile killing. It is very rare that such occurrences are followed by penal consequences of any kind.

Of course the Texas idea of inflicting the death penalty in a prompt and offhand manner seems startling. It was only another case of mob unreason, to be sure. But it is a precedent in its way. Suppose it should be followed by other lynchings on similar provocations? Suppose the idea should spread, until even legislatures and courts might have to take cognizance of it, that motor vehicles may readily be employed as the instruments of actual murder—possibly of first-degree murder resulting from ill will and premeditation, certainly of murder committed in wanton disregard of human life and seemingly as atrocious a crime as any killing prompted by a grievance?

If it should come to that, could any driver kill a little child or an aged woman and feel entirely safe from disagreeable consequences? If it doesn't come to that, apparently the automobile killings will go on unchecked and no one can feel safe in a city street.

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LEADER

Pittsburgh, Pa.

JAN 23 1917

## The Cowardice of Lynchers

THE cowardliness of the mob intent on lynching has often been illustrated, but seldom in so striking a manner as in two recent instances reported from southern states.

In one of them the governor, alone and unarmed, held off the mob by a display of personal courage that does not have its parallel in the history of such outrages.

When the news reached him that a mob was being organized to lynch a colored prisoner the governor immediately went to the jail, confronted the howling pack and cowed it with a few words that proved his magnificent courage, as well as his devotion to the duties he had been elected to perform.

The governor proved to the mob that it was cowardly because it did not dare attack him when he threw himself between the prisoner and it.

And when the mob became convinced of its own cowardice it melted away like snow beneath the sun.

And now comes another illustration from Columbia, S. C., where, according to the news reports, a 14-year-old girl, armed with a revolver which she did not know how to use, kept a mob of lynchers at bay.

The mob surrounded the jail and demanded the person of a colored man who had been arrested for assaulting a white man. The jailer's daughter was the only one left to protect the prisoner and she immediately took her stand in front of the jail and defied the mob to test her ability to riddle it with bullets.

The child was in control of the situation when her father arrived and took charge of it himself.

There is nothing so cowardly as a mob of lynchers, and it deserves the greatest contempt of law-abiding citizens.

Notion

New York City

JAN 18 1917

"I SHALL give the mob a chance to lynch the Governor of Kentucky first"—with these words Gov. Stanley started by special train for Murray, Kentucky, last week without a policeman or a constable or a single soldier to protect him. Arriving at the town, where the mob was threatening to lynch not only a negro accused of crime, but the Circuit Judge and the Commonwealth's Attorney as well, Gov. Stanley boldly announced to the mob the purpose for which he had come:

A little more than a year ago, I put my right hand upon a Bible and called God to witness that as Chief Magistrate of Kentucky and supporter of the law I would maintain its integrity. I have come here to plead with you to allow the law to take its orderly course, and to declare that I am here to uphold the law and to protect this court with my own body if necessary.

Now, there have been other Governors in the South who moved to prevent lynchings. "Pitchfork" Tillman himself, if we remember aright, took bodies of militia with him to several points where lynchings were threatened. But nothing

quite so thrilling and inspiring as this act of Gov. Stanley's has come out of the South in our recollection. Sheriffs at times have stood off mobs; the one in Ohio who was rewarded by a silver cup for his bravery and devotion to duty did so at the cost to himself of the life of one of his children. But Mr. Stanley went without even a weapon or a bodyguard, relying solely upon moral force and his own ability to convince the mob that the law should take its course.

WATCHMAN EXAMINER

NEW YORK CITY

FEB 22 1917

### THE DISGRACE OF LYNCHING

The slow process of law and the miscarriage of justice, have been used as apologies for mob violence and mob murder. There are crimes committed every week in New York that cause red-blooded men to grind their teeth in rage, but it is better, far better, to let the law take its course. There may be occasionally some semblance of reasonable provocation for a man to take the law into his own hands, but in a land such as ours, there is no real justification for such a course. This lynching business has well-nigh disgraced certain sections of the South, but it ought to be remembered that the God-fearing and cultured classes to a man are against the practise, and are doing all in their power to restrain the wild, reckless, drunken, dare-devil element that is responsible for these outrages. Dr. J. B. Cranfill, of Texas, in his *Chronicle*, a recent delightful autobiography, devotes a chapter to "The Story of a Mob." He describes a lynching, and says in part:

Before the final resolution to commit the murder had been formed, the company became wild with liquor at a wayside saloon. It was thus that the twin devils went forth together in their march of death. And let it be known everywhere that the Southern mob and the Southern saloon are as much akin as were the twins of Siam. I have never known of a sober mob. First comes the hell-born thirst for human blood, and after that the insatiate thirst for rum. Spell the word "murder" backward and you have "red-rum." Spell "red-rum" any way and you have murder.

Capitol

Edalia, Inc.

FEB 21 1917

The Kansas City Star observes that "The acquittal of a Georgia negro, charged with murder, has revealed the fact that five other negroes, lynched on suspicion for the same crime, were also innocent. The ordinary moral to the case should be plain to anyone but a Georgian. But the Georgia moral is that the negro just acquitted should thank his stars he wasn't lynched before he was tried."



# Discussions FEDERAL LYNCH LAW DEMANDED BY NEGROES

## Race Congress Also Calls for Prohibition of Segregation in Interstate Travel

SEPTEMBER 21, 1917  
At the final meeting of the Race Congress of negro organizations of the country, held by the National Equal Rights League at the Mother Zion Church in West 135th Street last night, an address was issued to the American people appealing for an end of the adverse sentiment and discrimination against negroes, and calling on President Wilson to recommend to Congress that lynching be made a Federal crime, that the articles of the Constitution forbidding disfranchisement be enforced, and that race segregation in interstate travel be forbidden.

"All patriotic Americans," says the statement, "must be alarmed that, with the country at war, American citizens are burned at the stake by mobs, are massacred because they work for a living, are beaten and assaulted. Until the right of trial for crime is secure, until the right to travel, to work and to vote is free, our country cannot expect success in the war or the blessing of Almighty God."

At the close of the three days' session of the congress last night the National Equal Rights League voted to send seven delegates to the Colored Liberty Congress at Washington in December. The Rev. Byron Gunner of Hillburn, N. Y., was re-elected President of the organization.

Cutting Bureau in the News

lynching evil in America. He believes that it is something not to be pusillanimously submitted to, merely to be talked about with the exclamation, "Too bad!!" Something ought to be done. Perhaps some student of Oberlin, white or colored, or some organization of Oberlin students, colored or white, may be destined to the championship of a better day. All are invited to hear the discussion and to have a part in it if there is time. Remember the place and hour, Council hall. Monday, 10 a. m.

## WANTS NEGROES IN MILITARY SERVICE

BOSTON MASS ADVERTISER  
JUNE 27, 1917

## DENOUNCE LYNCHINGS AT BOSTON MEETING

### William Trotter Proposes to Ask Wilson to Make South Safe for Democracy

"We are going to demand that the President and Congress make the South safe for democracy," said William Monroe Trotter, speaking at an anti-lynching meeting in People's Baptist Church last evening. Rev. E. P. Dixon of Fall River, William D. Brigham and A. W. Whaley were the other speakers.

Mr. Trotter demanded that the President open all branches of the military service to negroes. He asserted that the southern white man is the biggest coward ever created. He went on to denounce Col. Sweetser of the Sixth Regiment, because when asked to designate men for Plattsburg he named men from all companies in his regiment except the colored company.

Mr. Trotter and the other speakers strongly denounced the burning of Eli Persons at Memphis and recent lynching in Texas and Florida. He reached the conclusion that the war is a punishment for the injustice of the whites to the colored people all over the world.

Mr. Brigham said the only way to stop lynching is to make it a Federal crime. He declared that it is practical for Congress to pass such a law and make provision for its enforcement. He urged that the colored people should fight for their rights, to continually agitate and keep things stirred up until they secure their place.

"The world," said Mr. Dixon, "will not be safe for the white race until the colored race has justice."

TIMES

New York City

## WORK TO END LYNCHING.

Reports on Efforts at Meeting of  
Association to Aid Negroes.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its annual meeting in this city yesterday, with an afternoon session in the United Charities Building at 105 East Twenty-second Street, and an evening session at St. Philip's Church, 212 West 134th Street. Dr. J. E. Spingarn, Chairman of the Board of Directors, reported that the organization's most striking achievement of the year had been to make lynching assume the proportion of a national problem in the public mind. He said that a fund of \$10,000, to which both races had contributed about equally, had made it possible to carry on four investigations into notorious lynching cases.

Jane Addams of Chicago and Irene Lewisohn of New York were among those elected to the Board of Directors for terms expiring in January, 1920. The evening session was taken up largely by reports from branch associations. A convention of the association will be held this Spring in Cleveland, Ohio.

STAATS-ZEITUNG

New York City

MAR 6 1917

Lynch Law, wenn Spi-  
scherei, wenn Ange-  
die Bügel gelassen wären, ge-  
würde, beweist die Erfahrung  
gesehenen Luther. Pastors  
hei Staten Island. Der auf  
dem Hügel für ein lutherisches Schul-  
haus Vermessungen anstellen ließ und  
von dem "Generalfeldmarschall" Polizei-  
pascha Woods, Mitchell'sche Heeresgruppe,  
auf eine anonyme Angeberei beschuldigt  
wurde, "Plots" zu machen, Photo-  
graphien von Hamilton's Forts aufzu-  
nehmen etc. Reiner ist mehr sicher, die-  
sen Dear Servants zum Opfer zu  
fallen.

## NEGROES GO TO WHITE HOUSE

They Ask That Lynching Be Made  
a National Crime.

(Special to The World.)  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—A delegation of negroes from New York, headed by James Weldon Johnson, called at the White House to-day to enter a protest against the recent lynchings of members of their race. In a petition, which they left with Secretary Tumulty, they say that in the last thirty-one years 2,367 negro men and women have been lynched, and ask that mob violence be made a crime punishable by the laws of the United States and that this be done by Federal enactment, or, if necessary,

by constitutional amendment.  
Mr. Tumulty assured the delegation that the President was deeply interested in their complaint, and already had discussed the lynchings with officials of the Department of Justice with a view to stamping out this blot on the peace and order of the Nation.

Providence, R. I.

## The Lynching Question

(From the Chicago Evening Post)

Governor Manning of South Carolina has joined the ranks of Southern Governors who are enlisted against lynching. In his inaugural address, and again in his message to the Legislature, he lays emphasis upon the demand for a law that will empower the Governor to suspend or remove sheriffs for negligence of duty. Such a law would strike at the root of the lynching evil, the lax enforcement of law. It would put the power of the Governor behind the men who are faithful to duty and end the cowardly connivance between officials and the mob that has too often disgraced Southern States. Men like Manning and Stanley of Kentucky are doing much to wipe out a dark blot on the Southland.

REGISTER

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

## A RAY OF LIGHT AMID BARBARISM.

New York Evening Post:  
According to an investigator of the Abbeville, S. C., lynching of six weeks ago, writing in the Independent, few more outrageous mob-crimes have ever occurred in the south. The victim was a well-to-do negro farmer named Crawford, who was killed because he had cursed a white cottonseed dealer for what he supposed was an attempt to cheat him, and had then resisted a crowd that tried to horsewhip him. The local officials were inert at the time. The investigator declares that "the splendid stand of Governor Manning, the unanimity of condemnation by the press of South Carolina, and the resurrection of decency in the Abbeville court house" together constitute an act of self-assertion on the part of the noble south which marks the dawn of a new day." The govern-

News

Wilmington, Del.

JAN 15 1917

## New Idea in Penology.

New York Sun.

A man in Lima, Ohio, who took part in an attack on the sheriff with intent to lynch a prisoner, and who was first sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, is to get off with a public apology for his violence.

This is a new idea in penology. Public apologies for murderous assaults should make rapid headway. Instead of twenty years the convicted wrongdoer will have another alternative—a public apology publicly made once a year for the rest of his natural life. A capital apology will be the new capital punishment.

Waterbury, Conn.

JAN 25 1917

The lynching problem, after all, is primarily a personal question, depending on the grit andumption of public officials. Gov. Stanley of Kentucky demonstrated that, the other day, when he faced a mob single-handed, made take the negro prisoner back to and then, as a guarantee of good faith, ordered a prompt trial.

A mob is always a coward when faced by a man combining authority with nerve.

Spokane, Wash.

Spokane, Wash.

JAN 8 1917

Lynching is a stigma upon all the people of this nation, not merely upon those of this or that section. Patriotic Americans should push the campaign against the will-to-lynch. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People performs public service of the greatest worth in collecting funds for investigating the matter and marshaling public opinion. It aims its assault against lynching as such, not against any class or community, and its work for scientific diagnosis of this ulcer deserves universal approval and assistance.

JAN 21 1917

Negroes are actually being tried for a foul murder in Louisiana. There is some hope for the South when negroes accused of murdering a whole family are tried in a regular court. Generally the color of the accused has been sufficient evidence of his guilt in the minds of the mob and they haven't waited for a trial.

KANSAS CITY MO JOURNAL

AUGUST 25, 1917

A negro preacher in South Carolina who expressed his opinions of the draft was mobbed and killed. It is astonishing how every now and then a negro will venture to do something more than breathe in South Carolina.



HERALD  
Waverlyville, N. Y.

FEB 1 1917

#### THE FIVE WHO WERE LYNCHED.

About a year ago the sheriff of Worth County, Ga., was murdered. Six negroes were arrested and charged with the crime. A mob immediately assembled and lynched five of them. The sixth was rescued. Worth county rang with praise of this prompt and effective administration of justice, though its joy was tempered somewhat by chagrin over the escape of one of the negroes.

Jim, Keith, the man who thus failed lynch law, was tried in court and sentenced to life imprisonment. That trivial punishment was pointed to by friends of Judge Lynch as proof of the superiority of extemporized mob law over courthouse law.

However, it has just developed that Jim Keith really hadn't anything to do with killing the sheriff. He has had a new trial and has proved his innocence. Incidentally it has been proved that the other five were as innocent as he.

Jim has been freed. The other five negroes have been officially vindicated, but it isn't clear that that will do them any particular good. A man thoroughly lynched stays lynched a long time.

And yet there are men in Worth county, and in various other counties around the country, who will maintain the superiority of mob law.

And there are people in every community in America who still defend capital punishment, although a legal execution in such a case as this would have been just as effective a rendering of injustice as the lynching itself.



# Lynchings Should Be Punished.

A negro was lynched the other day in Northumberland County, Va. He had attempted the usual crime and was lynched in the usual way. A mob formed and took the prisoner from the Sheriff and hanged him to a tree. And the further proceedings were familiar to the reading public. A coroner's jury was duly empaneled to sit in the case, and the jury, after viewing the negro's body, solemnly announced that he came to his death by hanging at the hands of parties unknown.

That verdict may be satisfactory to the responsible authorities of Northumberland County, but it is not satisfactory to the Governor of the State. The Virginia Constitution charges the Governor with the duty of seeing that all laws of the State are faithfully executed, and in the performance of that duty Governor Stuart has determined to investigate the Northumberland lynching. Doubtless he will undertake to have the members of the mob apprehended, and to ascertain the Sheriff's reason for surrendering his prisoner with so little show of resistance.

It is to be hoped that the Governor's investigation will produce some real results. The case against the Northumberland mob is a strong one. It not only set constituted authority at defiance by usurping the functions of the State courts, but it did not have the usual excuse or provocation for its crime. It also broke in upon a record of many years in Virginia without a lynching. The members of the mob should be punished for their wanton lawlessness.

Chronicle

180 DSTA 66

JAN 2 9 1917

## If All Governors Spoke Like This.

The Columbia State calls attention to some very plain words on the subject of lynching by Governor Stanley, of Kentucky, a southern man and democrat who is not afraid to stand up for the majesty of the law. His words will bear repetition throughout the South. Among other things, Governor Stanley said:

"As I see it, it is the prime duty of a chief executive to maintain the law in its majesty, and to enforce it without fear or favor. A lawless mob, defiantly attempting to overthrow courts and to take into its own bloody hands the administration of alleged justice, is not guilty merely of a murder in which hundreds participate without provocation or excuse: it is a kind of treason and insurrection against constituted authority—an effort to demolish those sacred and established institutions upon which civilization itself is based."

"If there be men in the South prepared to dispute

these utterances," suggests The State, "it is time that they are asserting themselves." The State notes that Governor Stanley does not temporize or cavil; he says nothing about this or that crime excusing mob violence; he characterizes all lynchers as "not merely guilty of murder" but as guilty of a kind of treason in an effort to demolish the institutions on which civilization itself is based.

Just so, and this is what The Chronicle has always preached; that the man who takes part in a lynching commits a crime not so much against the victim of the mob as against the state—and it is for this that he should be punished first of all.

To try to excuse lynchings on the ground of "the law's delay," as some newspapers and many politicians in Georgia have done, is not only begging the question, it is giving actual comfort and encouragement to the mob. Governor Stanley has it down right; mob violence is a kind of treason—"an effort to demolish the institutions on which civilization itself is based." And it should be punished accordingly.

## That Lynching in Lowndes Not Justified in Modern Times

The double lynching in Lowndes is most unfortunate. Whatever the crime of the negroes they should have been given a fair trial before a jury in a court of justice. But Lowndes, being a black belt county, has had a way of its own in dealing with the lawless element among the negroes.

But in this day and time, are the people justified in thus taking the law into their own hands?

In the old days of Sheriff Bob Brinson, thirty years or more ago, it was not only regarded as justifiable but commended by public sentiment.

But even in those days, the governor of the state, then Governor Seay, sought to call Sheriff Brinson to an accounting for a lynching which had occurred, but the governor himself was called down by the sheriff, who in the day was as unbridled as the governor himself, in matters of this character.

But it may be, parenthetically, added that Sheriff Brinson was in no way responsible for the lynching at the time. But he simply sought to stand on his dignity, as sheriff.

The letter of Sheriff Brinson was a sensation. It was a relation. And withal it was a statesmanlike document.

The governor had no doubt thought he had some contr over sheriffs, but he found he was mistaken—that the sheriff was just as big a man as he. The letter of Sheriff Brinson awakened the governor of the state to his helplessness.

He had no control worth while over the county executive officer.

That letter brought about the present radical constitutional and legislative reforms.

Judge Thomas G. Jones, who became a member of the constitutional convention that followed the incident, and who himself had been governor, had a clause put in the organic law that forever afterward made the sheriff subservient to the state's chief executive, and who has now the power to order his impeachment for any alleged or flagrant

neglect of official duty.

Governor Henderson has great power in the present instance. He may order a special investigation. He should do so in the interest of the good name of the state.

While the crime of the negroes, that of highway robbery, in other parts of the state, would not be regarded with such serious concern, in a black belt county like Lowndes, it is a very heinous crime and unpardonable offense, and the white people have thought themselves justified in the past in adopting the extremest measures to prevent the crime and rid themselves of the criminals.

But in this day and time is Lowndes justified in taking the law in its own hands? It is a serious question.

## BOLDNESS OF GOV. STANLEY.

Gov. A. O. Stanley of Kentucky, is the right kind of Governor at the right time. The boldness and promptness with which he quelled a mob bent on lynching a negro who had killed a former policeman are bound to add to the reputation of the distinguished chief executive of Kentucky. People admire a bold, determined man. 1-15-17

"Hang the Governor of the Commonwealth first, and then wreak vengeance on the negro later," was the spirit in which the Governor rushed out of Louisville to Murray, Ky. Once face to face with the mob, the Governor demanded respect for the law and denounced the crime of mob violence. The 300-pound figure of Governor Stanley must have made its impression upon the mob. One of its leaders, a brother of the slain white man, stepped forward and asked the other men to heed the Governor's words, and the mob subsided.

The Governor endeavored to find a company of militia to send to Murray, but learned that every Kentucky company was on the border. The Governor would, therefore, have been helpless in face of men bent on mischief but for the power of personality and a show of earnestness. When the official spokesman of organized society protests against lawlessness, right in the face of lawlessness, the effect of the spectacle usually is to achieve its purpose.

Alert and aggressive Governors can reduce lynching to a minimum in any State where the Governor makes the experiment. An aggressive policy on the part of Alabama Governors has done that in this State. In several other States of the South the right kind of Governors have been able to improve the lynching record of their State. This experiment ought to be tried in Georgia and Texas.



# THE LOWNDES COUNTY LYNCH-

ING. 7/26/17

Nothing can be said in extenuation of the shocking offense against law and order committed by Lowndes county parties between Letohatchie and Hayneville, when two young negroes, brothers, met death at the hands of a mob. It is altogether one of the most provoking and distressing examples of lawlessness ever recorded in the lynching history of Alabama.

Why were the negroes lynched? They had not committed the "usual crime." They had not committed murder. They had not drawn blood from anyone. They had committed no capital offense. The worst that they did, from the meagre information obtainable, was the holding up of a farmer at the point of pistols near Letohatchie. Later reports indicate that while driving a fractious mule, the two negroes ran into the farmer. Words passed and pistols were drawn, probably by both parties, but no shots were exchanged. Apparently the negroes in this episode were aggressive and menacing; but they didn't shoot. Apparently, too, Sam and Will Powell, the negroes, were "undesirable characters," guilty of several minor, but aggravating offenses.

The negroes had committed offenses justifying their arrest and trial. They were arrested, put in the Montgomery county jail and were on their way to the Hayneville jail in the hands of the deputy sheriffs and in due time would have been tried and presumably, convicted; but their trial was not to be. The prisoners were set upon by a mob and slain.

The citizens of Lowndes who have the good name of their county at heart can do nothing less than to bring the forces of justice to bear upon the men guilty of this deplorable wrong against society—against the State of Alabama.

In other years Lowndes suffered from lawlessness along with many other Alabama counties, but in late years conditions in Lowndes have shown a decided improvement to the credit of her good citizens, a circumstance which makes this sudden and notable lapse from the course of rectitude the more surprising and lamentable.

The Advertiser, which condemns lynch law at home and abroad, though ever ready to defend Alabama from unjust attack from all sources, holds this latest episode in lawlessness up to the public view in the hope that the law-abiding and just-minded folk of Lowndes county will act promptly and decisively to mitigate this blot upon its name by dealing with the guilty as the law says

they should be dealt with. Lowndes cannot afford to ignore this challenge thrown at her feet by her law breakers.

## THE LOWNDES COUNTY LYNCH- ING.

MONTGOMERY ALA. ADVERTISER  
JULY 26, 1917

Nothing can be said in extenuation of the shocking offense against law and order committed by Lowndes county parties between Letohatchie and Hayneville, when two young negroes, brothers, met death at the hands of a mob. It is altogether one of the most provoking and distressing examples of lawlessness ever recorded in the lynching history of Alabama.

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Citizen  
Linton  
March

## Lynching the Innocent.

A little over a year ago five negroes were lynched in South Georgia for the murder of a sheriff and a sixth only escaped the fury of the mob because he was spirited away from it by the officials having him in custody. The negro not lynched at the time the others were has just been tried and acquitted by a white jury, and in the acquittal it was shown that the five negroes lynched were innocent.

The evil of lynching is here shown in its most hideous form, and we wonder how long the decent, law abiding people of the state propose to tolerate any such a system of cowardly assassination?

We quote approvingly as follows from the Atlanta Constitution:

Jim Keith is a negro who, more than a year ago, narrowly escaped lynching by a Georgia mob under the impression that he had murdered a sheriff.

He was saved by Worth county officials, but the lawless band did succeed in lynching five other negroes thought to have been implicated in the murder of which Keith was accused.

Jim Keith subsequently was tried, found guilty and sentenced to a life term in the penitentiary.

In the meantime, while Jim Keith lay in prison, new light was shed upon the original crime, and the life convict was given another trial.

Now, the new evidence proves Jim Keith and the five dead negroes innocent; and he was acquitted and his freedom restored by a white jury!

What a commentary upon the accursed institution of lynching!

A murder is committed; a mob forms; five innocent negroes are lynched; the life of a sixth barely saved by the authorities from the mob. Then, more than a year later "further evidence has led to the general belief that Mozelle Lake, who escaped, is the murderer!"

A white jury and the law, soberly and with deliberation, could restore to the one living victim of a premature man impulse his liberty, but not to the five others, who are dead.

How long are the decent, law-abiding citizens of Georgia going to tolerate this disgraceful, bar-

baric practice—which is the foulest blot upon the name of the state today?

JAVANNAH GA NEWS

JULY 13, 1917

## A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Gov. Catts and the National Guard of Florida have earned commendation by their handling of the Will Miles case. This negro on April 20 killed a white woman and her baby and later during the day assaulted a girl of thirteen years. He was arrested, but a mob quickly threatened his safety. Gov. Catts called out a guard of militia. The officer in charge drew a deadline about the jail and announced that trespassing would draw immediate fire. The mob retired. The most extreme precautions were taken again when the negro went to trial. The negro was found guilty, having confessed the crimes, and his execution took place forthwith. It is said that "only a small crowd witnessed the hanging and the presence of the militia seemed unnecessary." It had become unnecessary, however, only because its earlier evidence had convinced the mob leaders that the Governor and the guardsmen meant business and that, while the negro would be hung, the hanging would be done by persons regularly commissioned to perform that duty.

## THE MEMPHIS LYNCHING.

Advertiser 5-25-17  
The Advertiser is gratified, but not surprised, at the prompt and vigorous manner in which the Tennessee press condemns the burning of a negro at Memphis who committed one of the most horrible crimes conceivable. Tennessee must be ashamed of the stain on its name today. That this is true may be seen from the tenor of the editorial comment upon the affair at Memphis.

"We are back once more to the point where the law should end and anarchy should begin," says one of the leading dailies of the State. "We are face to face with the old question of whether society disorganized can better accomplish results than the organized forces of the law. . . . Men cannot give the law temporary paralysis and then expect it to resume a vigor in protecting all of the rights of all of the people. Men cannot, at will, suspend the Constitution of the United States and then expect that Constitution to be the ark of the covenant of the liberties which our forefathers secured for us in their blood."

If a reign of violence in Memphis does not follow the lynching episode wherein so large a number of people were personally concerned, we shall be pleasantly surprised. Violence begets violence, is as true a saying as we know.

We must have an orderly society, or we fail. Law must function through orderly processes, else the example of violation will ultimately and inevitably demoralize us.



# Discussions

## ORDER AGAIN TRIUMPHS.

Down in Taylor county a few days ago somebody murdered Sheriff John McCants.

The victim was, beside being the sheriff of the county, one of the most highly respected and popular men in his section of the state. His death was lamented by a wide circle of friends, and feeling against the unknown slayer was widespread and intense.

Seven negroes were immediately arrested in connection with the murder, but no one presumed to know which of the prisoners was the guilty man. A mob was formed, and freedom was offered six of them if they would "turn state's evidence" against the one who did the killing. They were given a night in which to do this.

Neither admitted knowledge that either of the seven had killed the sheriff. The mob was bent upon avenging the death of Sheriff McCants by the lynching method, under the presumption that one of the arrested negroes was guilty and being shielded by his six fellow-prisoners.

The stage was ideally set for an old-time "necktie party." The prominence of the murdered man, the righteous indignation of the citizenship, the circumstantial evidence of guilt of the negroes in custody—all of the elements conspired admirably to make up an ideal setting for a lynching. The cowering suspects indeed seemed doomed.

However, to quote from the news report of what took place—

**THE LAW-ABIDING SPIRIT OF THE COMMUNITY PREVAILED AND IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE LAW SHOULD TAKE ITS COURSE WITH THE NEGROES UNDER ARREST.**

They were given a fair hearing, and at that hearing the fact developed that neither of the accused men had had a hand in the killing of the sheriff, and strong proof was adduced that the real murderer is Ponto Huff, who escaped, and for whom the officers immediately started in quest.

Therefore, four of the men originally charged with murder were released, and three were held on a charge of gambling, they having been engaged in a crap game when arrested.

Herein Taylor county affords the most

recent, and a most convincing, instance of the folly of the institution known as lynching—but, better still, it affords a splendid illustration of the triumph of law and order over mob violence and outlawry!

How easy it would have been to have lynched those seven negroes for the murder of a respected officer of the law!

And how horrible would it have been afterward to find that they had suffered the extreme penalty for an act of which they were innocent!

But for the prevalence of cooler heads that is precisely what might have happened; and Taylor county would have suffered the stigma and the members of the Taylor county mob would have suffered the unspeakable remorse which would have followed the discovery of their ghastly mistake in the heat of passion.

As it is, the incident is another illuminating triumph of sanity and good citizenship—all to Taylor county's credit. And it shows that wise counsel, law and order are rapidly supplanting passion and prejudice, and that the institution of mob law in the south is rapidly being relegated to its rightful place in the category of things of the past.

## AN ARBITRARY GOVERNOR.

Governor McCall of Massachusetts virtually gives an invitation to every refugee from justice in every American State to flee to Massachusetts, there to receive the partisan support of the State government.

The course of Governor McCall in arbitrarily refusing to honor the requisition of Governor Cornwell of West Virginia is rather high-handed, and in every respect remarkable, and unusual. Governor Cornwell, as shown by his statement published today, is justly indignant at the gratuitous fling which Governor McCall takes at West Virginia, and indignant at McCall's singularly obtuse interference with the orderly processes of justice in an American State.

Governor McCall's pretended fear of the "grave danger" that the defendant might be convicted and executed for a crime of which he may not have been guilty is unwarranted and the point a gratuitous reflection upon the people of West Virginia. McCall introduces racial considerations, without warrant. What matters it whether the defendant is a negro or a white man? What matters it whether the defendant is charged with murder, assault, robbery or larceny? Whether a West Virginia jury should convict or

exonerate the defendant, the responsibility would not be upon Massachusetts, but upon West Virginia. The man is a fugitive from justice from a responsible State and should have been returned to that State for trial. But instead the defendant is released upon the recommendation of Governor McCall's "investigators" who went to West Virginia, "investigated" one side of the case, returned and advised that the defendant was probably not guilty! In any case the defendant is now free to go his way.

The Governor of Alabama, it is interesting to note, could not have exercised such wide discretionary powers as were employed by the Governor of Massachusetts. The Alabama statute reads thus:

Any person charged in any State or territory of the United States with treason, felony or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in this State, must, on demand of the executive authority of the State or territory from which he fled, be delivered up by the Governor of this State, to be removed to the State or territory having jurisdiction of such crime.

The ground which Governor McCall has taken seems to us to be wholly untenable. He has ordained a precedent fraught with danger and error. As an immediate consequence, the Governor of West Virginia, in his retort to Governor McCall, threatens to retaliate upon the Governor of Massachusetts at the first opportunity.

It is already too easy a matter for criminals to escape unpunished from American courts. Criminals require no arbitrary partisan championship on the part of any State government to facilitate their escape from prosecution.

**MOBILE ALA REGISTER**  
JULY 26, 1917

**THE LYNCHING IN LOWNDES.**  
The lynching of two negroes in Lowndes county for drawing their pistols upon a white farmer and threatening him, must be admitted even by the persons engaged in it as inexcusable. Taking the negroes in their worst aspect, as highwaymen and as dangerous to the community if left unrestrained, they had been taken and deprived of their liberty and were no longer an active danger; and there was plenty of law in Lowndes to punish them for their lawlessness.

There does not appear from the account given of the affair by press dispatch from Montgomery that there was any justification for resort to violent and unauthorized punishment. We have the right to condemn this mob action, as the odium of it attaches to all Alabama, and also to the South.

## "All Honor to the Governor of Kentucky"

(From The New York Evening Post.)

All honor to the governor of Kentucky! For he has not only saved the dignity of his state, proved that there is a high official whose oath of office is of more importance to him than life itself, but has given us, at an hour when the lesson was never so needed, convincing proof that physical force is not everything; that a brave man pleading for a just cause is truly thrice armed. No one would have felt particularly delighted had Mr. Stanley restored order by a regiment of militia. It is the fact that he went unarmed, without caring for the price he might have to pay, which lifts this happening far above those of a similar kind. We cannot but believe that it will have a wide reverberation throughout the south—unless all its reputed respect for chivalry is dead—for everywhere in the south men are now to be found who are desirous once and for all of putting an end to this horrible crime. They see no palliation in the fact that lynchings take place in northern states; that even Oregon has entered the list of those where mob murder has been permitted. They have sufficient pride and loyalty to wish to end the evil in the south, no matter what takes place elsewhere, and we believe that in the near future there will be convincing proof of this.

For instance, in South Carolina another brave governor, Richard L. Manning, is insisting upon the punishment of the men who murdered Anthony Crawford in Abbeville. That case was a particularly atrocious one, in that the victim was a man of property and standing who was attacked because of a disagreement over the price of cotton, his sole offense being that he dared to talk back when he considered himself ill-treated. Behind the prosecution of the lynch-ers, Governor Manning has thrown all the power of the state, demanding that convictions be obtained. If this does not take place, it will certainly not be the fault of the executive or of the prosecuting machinery. At least, we are to have the tonic effect of seeing a state aroused to say to its citizens that this growing practice of lynching must stop.

## NEGROES HOLD MASS MEETING

### GALVESTON TEXAS TRIBUNE

JUNE 26, 1917

Several hundred representative negroes gathered last night in an orderly assembly at Cotton Mammars' park to protest against the lynching yesterday of Chester Sawyer, a negro who was taken from the county jail in the early hours of the day by a gang of masked men.

F. E. Stewart was chairman of the meeting, which was opened by inviting in the press reporters and members of the police and sheriff's departments who had gathered outside.

After an invocation by Rev. W. Scott, several speeches were made by prominent negroes of Galveston. The tenor of all was the same. They had gathered not to "wave the bloody shirt," not to ask for social equality, not to condone criminal offenses, but to protest against summary punishment without trial and to ask for justice and preventative methods for rendering the recurrence of yesterday's event impossible.

Dr. L. M. Wilkins, the first speaker, said: "We are weak, we acknowledge. We ask for your protection and aid (referring to the whites). We want crime punished, but by law."

Rev. A. Barbour said: "We must



meet the issue, and take a stand against crime. Then we can insist upon our rights. I would have tipped my hat to him if the husband of the outraged woman had taken a shotgun and blown the culprit's brains out, after he was sure he had the right man, but the breaking of jail and unlawful killing of a prisoner by a mob should not be tolerated. The greatest crimes are committed where we are treated the worst. The negroes of Galveston, because of their liberty, have committed very few of such crimes. Judge Briggs' charge to the grand jury was a

"The negroes of this town (turning to the officers) will help you ferret out this thing. We will get every negro who attempts to cross the color line, if you will see to it that all the white men stay on their side of the line."

All the speakers agreed that the relationship between the negroes and whites had been a pleasant one in this city, and they believed that the better element of white people deplored the perpetration of crime.

Police Chief Robert Webber said: "I do not believe there were any two hundred men in the mob, as there were only three or four automobiles present at the jail, and there was no evidence of any large crowd taking part in the lynching. As chief of police, I say that every man under me will do his duty or quit his job. We are going to ferret this thing out and bring the guilty ones to justice."

John Moran, constable, said: "My duty is before me. I will surely do it." Both speakers were strong in their praise of the manner in which the meeting was conducted.

Votes of thanks were extended to the chief and constable.

Other colored men who made short speeches were Rev. Willis King, Rev. C. Branch and A. G. Perkins.

A resolution was adopted calling upon the white people to make an investigation of the lynching, condemning the same, and commending the charge of Judge Briggs to the grand jury.

It was brought out in the meeting that the affair of yesterday was the first instance where a man had been taken from jail and lynched in the history of Galveston.

The following committee was appointed to take up the case and lend assistance in every way to the authorities in ferreting out this case and preventing further crimes of assault by negroes and consequent mob violence: S. H. Simpson, Dr. T. A. Jones, Rev. W. King, Alex. Jackson, S. S. Sims, J. W. Williams, Rev. C. E. Branch, Willis Woods, Perry Jasper, W. H. Noble, P. B. Oliver, Dr. R. H. Stanton, E. M. Russell, R. Johnson and F. E. Stewart.

CHATTANOOGA TENN NEWS  
NOVEMBER 24, 1917  
JUSTICE IN THE SOUTH.

There are few, if any, newspapers in this country which are edited with more ability and scholarship than the New York Evening Post. In many other newspaper offices its editorial page is looked upon as a sort of standard. It is clear, ordinarily fair and thorough. We use the words "ordinarily fair" advisedly, for the Post

seems utterly unable to be fair to the south. Apparently, it delights to hold up to public ridicule the faults it discovers in the south and it usually reminds us that they are peculiar to the south. It has always professed a holy horror over the treatment which it accuses the south of dealing out to the negro race.

A few days ago, Gov. McCall, of Massachusetts, refused to honor a requisition from West Virginia for the return to that state of a negro charged with assault upon a white woman upon the gratuitous assumption that the said negro would not get a fair trial in West Virginia! This crime is a capital offense in West Virginia, as it is in most of the states. The Post does not come right out and squarely approve Gov. McCall's position, but it does so constructively. It recalls a case where a negro was surrendered by the governor of Pennsylvania to South Carolina a few years ago, after a long controversy, but neglects to state whether the punishment administered, if any, was unjust. It does remark, however, that "the fact remains that the negro does not get justice in the courts of the south, where no colored man is allowed to sit on a jury to try one of his race."

The Post states further on that "this inability to obtain justice is one of the reasons most frequently given by the negro immigrants from the south now pouring into the north." Would it have use believe that inability to get justice—or the fear of getting it—was the reason which caused the West Virginia negro to emigrate to Massachusetts? The Post should have been frank enough to tell what it is that causes most of this northern emigration to "pour" back into the south. Is it because justice is also administered sparingly in the north? It was inevitable, of course, that the south's lynching record should be dragged over, but here the Post is forced to admit that the north is doing almost as well. It did not say, however, but might have truthfully said that the south hardly ever lynches a negro because he wants to work for his living, as is sometimes done in the north.

In justifying northern governors for "looking carefully into the prospects of a fair trial for extradited men"—a purely hypocritical proceeding—the Post makes no attempt to square such action with a mandatory provision of the constitution. Must the constitution be set at naught in order to protect those accused of crime from trial under the laws of their own states? Is the governor of another state—if it happens to be northern—necessarily a better judge of what constitutes a fair

trial than the governor of the state in which it is held? What is a fair trial, anyhow? Is it one wherein the state agrees to acquit in advance? It is noted in this connection that the Post does not advise southern governors to ignore or refuse requisitions from northern states, although it mentions the fact that negro babies were recently burned alive in the state of Abraham Lincoln. It seems to make a difference as to whose ox is gored.

Although a brave and generous people, citizens of the south make no professions of a puritanical perfection. They have their share of the faults common to humanity. But they are not inherently cruel—even to the negroes for whom so many crocodile tears have been shed. They have certain generations-old social customs which cannot be broken up over night, but a negro can get as fair trial in the south as in Massachusetts or New York. There have been all too many lynchings of negroes in the south. Her people know this is true. But here again it may be said in extenuation that the crime which provoked them has been more common in the south than elsewhere. It may also be said, in behalf of southern men, that their lynchings are directed at individuals whom they believe guilty of crime. They hardly ever undertake to lynch the whole race as sometimes seems to be the purpose in Ohio and Illinois.

The Post could perform a much more effectual public service by supporting a policy of mutual trust—by advising Gov. McCall that he is no whit better than the governor of West Virginia. It would be much more becoming if we could all work together along democratic lines to eliminate abuse and injustice wherever found without having one portion of the country insult the other by clothing itself in that insufferable holier-than-thou garbage. There is great room for improvement all around. But suppose each of us begin by pulling the beam out of his own eye.

**NEGRO WANTED FOR  
CRIMINAL ASSAULT  
MAY BE RELEASED**

Governor McCall Declines  
to Grant Requisition  
From West Virginia

*Advertiser*  
(Associated Press.)  
BOSTON, Nov. 20.—Governor McCall in a letter to Governor Cornwell, of West Virginia, made public today, explained that he had declined to grant a requisition for the return to that state of John Johnson, a negro charged with an attack on a white girl at Charleston, "because of the grave danger" that the defendant might be convicted and sentenced to death for a crime of which he may not have been guilty. Assistant Attorney General Nelson P. Brown who was directed by Governor McCall to conduct a public hearing, reported that exaggerated accounts of the crime had been circulated in Charleston and because of their nature and Johnson's color there existed a prejudice "which would be difficult, if not impossible, of control by the most upright judge."

Mr. Brown recommended that the negro, who is in jail here, be not returned to West Virginia.

#### Letter of Governor.

In endorsing the findings of the assistant attorney general, Governor McCall in his letter to Governor Cornwell said: "I have no doubt that mob law or the unjust enforcement of the law would be as abhorrent to you as it is to the history of the splendid state of West Virginia. I have full confidence that if the case were reversed and facts such as have been brought to the attention of the attorney general were brought to yours, you would take action similar to that which he recommends."

"In the history of some of the greatest states of our union there is too much of gross injustice and the denial of rights of our citizens of African

descent. This surely is not the time when any discrimination in the administration of justice should be permitted against a race, which bearing its full share of the burdens of our social fabrics and furnishing many thousands of men who are training themselves to fight for their country. When American soldiers are fighting upon the battlefields of Europe for freedom of the world we should exercise special care that so far as possible injustice should be banished from our own borders. The trained officer who has considered this case for the commonwealth having reported against the return of the defendant, I feel compelled to act accordingly, very greatly as I regret not to grant any request made by your excellency."

#### May Be Relieved.

It was announced at the governor's office that Johnson, who has been held in default of \$10,000 bail on a charge of being a fugitive from justice would be released forthwith.

**LYNCH LAW SCORED**  
*Advertiser*  
(Associated Press.)

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 24.—A resolution condemning the lynching near Memphis on Tuesday of Eli Persons, the negro who confessed to the brutal murder of 15-year-old Antoinette Raphael, were adopted at a meeting of approximately twenty-five pastors, representing various creeds and denominations here today. The meeting was held behind closed doors. Six negro pastors were present, it was stated, but took no part in the discussion.

CHATTANOOGA TENN BANNER  
DECEMBER 3, 1917

#### ABOUT LYNCHINGS.

The Banner sincerely regrets to record that another of those horrible incidents, the burning of a Negro rapist, has taken place in Tennessee. Such things do the state and the South generally incalculable harm and make stronger the misfeeling and prejudice against this section concerning race relations here that exist in the outside world.

This paper has often said that the white people of the South, insisting on the making and administration of the law, should see that it is strictly executed in respect to the Negro, and that he has exact justice under the law. That should be a binding principle under the old rule of noblesse oblige that always imposed on a higher class fair treatment to inferiors.

The Banner understands perfectly well the monstrous nature of the crime that provokes these incidents, but the world outside thinks only of the mob and the horrible nature of the punishment. It leads to adverse comment and severe criticism that advertises the South as barbarous, or otherwise creates the impression that the race conflict in the South is of such a turbulent and rabid character that life and the welfare of women are in continuous jeopardy here.

It doesn't do any good to show that such things have occurred in the North or elsewhere. The argument about the matter only adds to the harm it does.

Negroes who have outraged white women in Tennessee, under due process of law, will suffer death in the electric chair. That is sufficiently severe punishment and being done legally, will prove much more efficacious in stopping the crime. They will be tried by white juries and white judges whom the white people elect. In dealing with all classes of Negro criminals the white people should show respect for the legal institutions they have themselves created and that they are under the strictest obligation of law and morality constrained to uphold.

The practice of lynchings, and especially of burnings, ought to be forever and ruthlessly wiped out. The material and moral advancement of the South would be greatly served if this could be done.

RICHMOND VA TIMES DISPATCH  
AUGUST 20, 1917

The lynching of a negro in Northumberland County, the first to occur in Virginia during the space of eighteen years will occasion general regret throughout the Commonwealth—not because the death penalty was administered for the attempted assault, which is the punishment provided by law for such cases, but because the lynching is itself a murder. Better one capital crime than to make murderers of 500 citizens.



## SHERIFF AND POSSE ARE STILL MISSING

Memphis, Tenn., May 17.—Sheriff M. G. Tate and three of his deputies who last night were reported to be in the hands of a crowd intent on securing Ell Person, the negro charged with the brutal murder of Antoinette Rappal, had not returned to the office here early today. Deputies in charge expressed the belief that the sheriff and his party were safe, although they declared they had no knowledge of his whereabouts.

Telephone reports from Arlington, Hickory Withe and other points in the county where the sheriff was seen last night, stated that Tate had eluded his pursuers. Friends of the sheriff here expressed the belief that he had returned to Nashville.

Nashville, Tenn., May 17.—Ell Person, the negro charged with the murder of Antoinette Rappal, in Shelby county, is in the Nashville jail, having been brought back this morning from Springfield, where he was taken when last night's rumors were received of a mob coming from west Tennessee to take him. Sheriff Tate is not here, but was here two days ago. The Nashville jail is guarded and arrangements have been made to rush troops there if necessary.

## LOYALTY IS THEME OF ATHENS ALUMNI

Duty to Government and University Pervades Gathering of Former Students. Lynching Is Decried. Robert Foreman, Jr., Wins Sophomore Prize.

Athens, Ga., June 19.—(Special.)—"America," sung by alumni of Georgia, opened the annual banquet of the association today and every speech breathed patriotism and loyalty to the government.

Speakers were Dr. Kirchwey of New York, Judge Moses Wright of Rome, General-Lawton of Savannah, class of '77, Dr. Frank Boland of Atlanta, class of '97, Nathan Copelan of Atlanta, class of '01, and R. V. Harris of Wrens, class of '17. Dr. Soule also spoke, and Chancellor Barrow was given an unprecedented ovation.

The trustees authorized the degree of D. D. for the Rev. Troy Beatty, who was rector of Emmanuel church, Athens, for twenty years, now of Memphis.

A prize of \$25, tendered by Lucia Knight, of Atlanta, for best work in southern history, was accepted, and will be awarded for the first time tomorrow.

Foreman Wins Prize.

Robert L. Foreman, Jr., of Atlanta, was this afternoon awarded the sophomore cup for declamation, the presentation address being the afternoon feature on the campus at the Georgia commencement by George H. Gillon, '07, of Atlanta.

Robert Raymond Ellare, of Fitzgerald, was awarded the junior oratory medal.

M. M. Levy, of Savannah, was awarded the ready writers' medal.

Other prizes are to be awarded at the graduation exercises tomorrow at noon.

Tuesday was the "Old Boys" day, the alumni association holding its annual meeting, election and informal but largely attended luncheon; the classes of numbers of years—particularly those which went out from the institution 5, 10, 15, 20 and 40 years ago, respectively, meeting for special "gatherings of reminiscence," and the annual alumni address.

In the business meeting of the association this morning the election of officers resulted in the choice of C. Murphey Candler, of Decatur, president; Dr. Frank Boland, of Atlanta, first vice president; Harrison Jones, of Atlanta, second vice president; Charles E. Martin, of Athens, third vice president. The secretary-treasurer and assistant secretary-treasurers, Dr. Sylvanus Morris, Dr. C. M. Strahan and Professor W. O. Payne, were, respectively, re-elected.

The classes of 1877, of 1897 and 1907 were particularly in evidence, and there were scattering representatives from 30 or more classes besides.

### Judge Wright Speaker.

In the chapel at noon, with the procession formed of the classes in order of their seniority filing in as they did in the years ago, Judge Candler presided and, after a prayer by Rev. W. S. Walker, of the class of 1877, Judge Moses Wright, of Rome, class of 1885, delivered the annual address.

Alluding to the present crisis in America and the world and the world cry for democracy, Judge Wright addressed himself to a problem of the south which affects the Americanism of the section—and democracy in general in a vital manner—the question of "The Institution of Lynching."

Judge Hart gave the figures of recent years as to mob violence in the south and in Georgia, a record alarming in its proportions and startling in that it placed the great burden of lawlessness of this form on the south, and largely on Georgia. He said that the mob is composed of those who have no regard for law and, for the most part, of cowards; he said that legislative action will not remedy the evil that has become a blot on the civilization of the south, and menaces the safety of democracy in this section. He said that aroused public sentiment, the determined action of men who are brave enough to make laws and courageous enough to enforce them and lawabiding enough to keep them inviolate will rid the south and the state of Georgia of this form of barbarism which is comparable—in a land of liberty and a time of peace—to the cruelty of the Turks and the atrocities of the Germans in the war madness.

Judge Wright took occasion to pay tribute to the loyalty of the old black mamies of the south and to the black men who defended southern homes in the olden times, and he paid tribute, too, to the loyalty of the negroes of today—who, when their race was being mobbed and murdered in Illinois on May 28, met in Macon and unanimously expressed themselves as ready to serve

their country in the field of war or the field of agriculture—and who registered on June 5 almost to a man.

Following the address the entire alumni body enjoyed a delightful luncheon at Denmark hall, where, class by class, speakers vied with each other in expressions of loyalty to "Old Georgia."

Several of the classes held meetings this evening and several banquets were going in various parts of the town.

### Junior Speakers.

The junior speakers in the chapel this afternoon were Lucius Holmes Tippet, Demosthenian, Baxley, Ga.; Richard Winn Courts, Jr., Phi Kappa, Atlanta; Robert Raymond Ellars, Demosthenian, Fitzgerald, Ga.; and James Madden Hatcher, Phi Kappa, Columbus.

The sophomore declamation contest was, for the first time, held several weeks in advance of commencement, only will not be open always with the same opportunities as they now are.

"While I want Georgia to do her share, it is not the mere record in recruiting we are after. Georgia must do her part with national honor at stake. In fact, I don't see how she can fall down on this patriotic task without feeling pangs of disgrace."

### Everybody Should Help.

The local recruiting officers urge that all persons not subject to military service work hard for the immense recruiting propaganda that must be successfully terminated.

The Fifth regiment has begun its work on the whirlwind campaign launched in an effort to recruit this Atlanta regiment up to war standards. Enlistment in the various branches Tuesday follow:

In the marine corps: Clyde Redd, Davis C. Williams, James H. Baker, Ebbylex Carroll, Willie McKennis.

### DALLAS TEXAS HERALD

NOVEMBER 20, 1917

### RIGHTS OF WOMEN

THE OTHER DAY a negro attempted to assault a white woman near Dallas. If he is not spirited away by the officers after he is caught it is very likely that he will meet with mob violence, not because the South hates negroes, but because it loves and respects womankind. Since we can remember, and our memory dates back to reconstruction days following the war between the states, the South, and the Southwest especially, has been indirectly ruled by women. The example of their fortitude during the war, their encouragement during its darkest days and their determination to fight for the right kind of reconstruction in spite of the sorrow and hardships, have made every Southern man a slave to the fair sex.

The Southern woman has not been as quick to seek suffrage as her Northern sisters because she has not felt the need of suffrage. Recently not only the Southern woman, her husband, fathers, brothers and sweet-hearts have awakened to the realization of the fact that she has as much

right to vote as any other human being.

This awakening did not come through White House pickets; it did not come from any national propaganda; it came from our own realization that we haven't given the woman of the South the really and truly square deal that we have prided ourselves about. We have taken for granted that our women will ask for what they want. They want the vote, as all free human beings want it, but they didn't ask for it until lately and we suspect that the only reason they request it is because they do not want their Northern sisters to gain any achievement for the sex that is not obtainable in the South.

What a majority of Texas women want they will get for the asking. They do not have to form militant organizations, recruit picket brigades nor organize mobs to destroy art galleries.

The Dallas Equal Suffrage Association, and the Texas branch of the National Suffrage Association realize this fact. That is the reason that they have made so much progress in their work and are so sure of their ultimate achievement.

They did not bait the President during war time, when the nation needed his undivided thought, and they haven't browbeaten nor curtain lectured their friends, the men. They have merely used unanswerable argument and trusted in the love, friendship and honor of their loved ones who, in the classification of human beings, are called males.

### MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 21, 1917

### A Governor Encourages Lynching.

That it was foreign to the nature of Governor McCall of Massachusetts to extend aid and comfort to the Southern lynchers of negroes in the case of the negro Johnson, a fugitive in Massachusetts, charged with criminal assault upon a white woman in Charleston, West Virginia, unfortunately does not take away anything from the fact. Governor McCall, in contempt of the principle of the comity of the States and applying the principle of State rights to an extreme that would not be dreamed of in South Carolina, has refused to deliver an accused felon to the Governor of West Virginia to be dealt with by the courts, on the assumption that the courts of a State, that owes its existence to the refusal of the population of its territory to abide with the South, would not give him a fair trial. The Governor of Massachusetts releases this man in-

dicted of the gravest of crimes, without trial, and gives him the full freedom of Massachusetts. Defending his preposterous course, Governor McCall prattles childishly of the willingness of the negroes to do their duty as soldiers!

Governor McCall of Massachusetts merely arms the lynchers of Georgia, South Carolina and other States with an argument against taking chances when they capture a negro accused of the gross and hateful crime for which even some deluded men reckoned as good citizens seek to extenuate the crime of lynching. "Why," the lynchers will say, "should we not hang this negro now that we've got him? Who knows but that he will break jail and escape to Massachusetts? Who can say that Massachusetts' money will not be sent to procure his escape? If Massachusetts won't let the courts of South Carolina try a negro when she can prevent it, when the Governor of Massachusetts runs roughshod over the law, why shouldn't we? If Massachusetts is to lynch the law, why shouldn't we prevent it by lynching the negro first?"

That is the plain meaning that the lynchers will read in Mr. McCall's conduct. They will hail him as an ally and elect him to honorary membership. Into the teeth of every decent Governor, decent newspaper and decent sheriff in the South striving to put down lawlessness and raise up respect for the courts and the law the lynchers will fling this folly of the Governor of Massachusetts—a Governor for whose ability, scholarship and statecraft The State has frequently expressed admiration.

It is the sad fact of American history that bigotry and Puritanical fanaticism have so obscured the otherwise clear vision of New England that it has never in any way or at any time attempted to assist the Southern negroes without confounding their friends and multiplying their woes. Governor McCall has saved the man, Johnson, and, unwittingly, has set the hounds on many another negro.

### News

Macon, Ga.

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JAN 20 1918

### GEORGIA WOMEN CONDEMN LYNCHING AS "MEANS OF PUNISHING CRIME."

Resolutions condemning lynching as a means of punishing crime "of any name or character," have just been passed by the executive board of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, which has a membership of 20,000 women. This action was taken at a recent meeting of the board held at the home of the state president, Mrs. Nellie Peters Black, 519 Spring street.

The resolutions follow: "Whereas, lynching substitutes the violent passions of the mob for the orderly processes of the courts of justice, thus creating in the minds of our people disrespect for all law; and, "Whereas, the fair name of our state has been grievously injured and its development retarded by the publication abroad of lynching statistics



which misrepresent the overwhelming majority of our law-abiding and peace loving citizens; and,

"Whereas, it is in the power of the enlightened women of the state to create a public sentiment in favor of law and against the continued blight of mob violence; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the executive board of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs hereby records its unqualified condemnation of lynching as a means of punishing crime of any name or character, and, further, be it

"Resolved, That we request the officers of the clubs throughout the state to bring this matter to the attention of their members and urge them to use their influence in every proper way to remove this curse from Georgia."

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COLUMBIA 2 C

JAN 27 1917

Plain Words from a Southerner.

Hear these words from A. O. Stanley, Southern man, Democrat, former member of congress, now governor of Kentucky:

As I see it, it is the prime duty of a chief executive to maintain the law in its majesty and to enforce it without fear or favor. A lawless mob, defiantly attempting to overthrow courts and to take into its own bloody hands the administration of alleged justice, is not guilty merely of a murder in which hundreds participate without provocation or excuse; it is a kind of treason and insurrection against constituted authority—an effort to demolish those sacred and established institutions upon which civilization itself is based.

If there be men in the South prepared to dispute these utterances, it is time that they are asserting themselves. It will be noted that Gov. Stanley does not temporize or cavil; he says nothing about this or that crime excusing mob violence; he characterizes all lynchers as "not merely guilty of murder" but as guilty of a kind of treason in an effort to demolish the institutions on which civilization itself is based.

Nevertheless, the "civilization" of some of the peoples of the earth is based on mob law. They can be found, we believe, in the heart of Africa.

It is a curious fact that defenders of the lynching of negroes in the United States would be forced to appeal to the most degraded tribes of negroes in their native jungles to find precedents for their lawlessness. A mob of negro savages doubtless would slay a white man, with or without excuse.

**MOTON'S IDEA NOT BORN OUT IN ILLINOIS MASSACRE**  
To the Editor of the Journal:

Principal Moton of the Tuskegee Institute is quoted as saying this week that he believes many negroes were driven north because of their lynchings in the south. Since that time a gen-

eral massacre of negroes has occurred in East St. Louis—the north. Now, Principal Moton says, "With all her faults, the south at least cannot be criticised for killing men seeking employment and a better economic status."

If this Moton statement is analyzed, we would infer that the south is to be criticised for lynching men who commit unmentionable crimes—and for which men are daily lynched in the north as well as the south. Just what Moton's idea is in giving out the two above statements is somewhat questioned. A pursuance of this line of utterance will soon prove that he is not a fit successor to the illustrious Booker T. Washington, whose keen sense and broad discretion never permitted such statements to fall from his lips.

The fact is the negro knows there's no place like the south for the race. It was only business conditions and persuasion by northern capital, and misrepresentation in many cases, that made the negroes go north. There the people kill them—before they commit the one offense for which they are lynched in the south—and the north.

Southerner.

**GALVESTON TEXAS NEWS**

JUNE 26, 1917

### NEGRO MEETING QUIET AFFAIR

Adopt Resolution Condemning Lynching and Urging Moderation on Part of All Members of Race.

Rumors of possible disorders among Galveston negroes as a result of the lynching early Monday of Chester Sawyer, charged with criminal assault, proved unfounded when a negro mass meeting held last night at Cotton Jammers' Park adjourned quietly after adopting resolutions condemning the manner of Sawyer's death.

Negro leaders, including Rev. A. Barbour, F. E. Stewart, Rev. Willis King, Rev. W. Scott, A. G. Perkins, and others, addressed the meeting, counseling moderation.

Probably five hundred negroes, including several women, attended the meeting. Fearing trouble, officials of the police and sheriff's departments had stationed men near the park and for some distance down Avenue S. Sheriff Henry Thomas, accompanied by three deputies, patrolled the roads in the vicinity of the park, ready to cope with any disturbance. Saloons in the vicinity of the park were closed early.

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. W. Scott, and each speaker as he arose emphasized that the meeting was merely in the nature of a protest and that no violence was contemplated. Their speeches were frequently interrupted with applause. Press representatives, at the invitation of the chairman, were allotted a special table.

Speakers described the American negro as a patriotic and law-abiding citizen and asked for the protection of the white man. The crime of which Sawyer was accused came in for unsparing denunciation. Chief of Police Webber and Constable Moran were extended a vote of thanks for a promise to investigate the lynching, and a vote of thanks also was given to those who called the meeting.

The resolution concerning Sawyer's death condemned the lynching, asked for an investigation, and commended the charge of Judge Clay S. Briggs to the grand jury, which is to conduct a probe.

### LYNCHING DENOUNCED BY NEGRO SOCIETIES

Cincinnati, June 16.—Negro societies held a mass-meeting here today in honor of the memory of the late Senator Joseph B. Foraker. Rev. R. C. Ransom, of New York, editor of The American Methodist Review, the principal speak-

er, denounced lynching, disfranchisement and race segregation.

"While negro soldiers are carrying liberty and freedom across the Rhine," he said, "let us carry it down the Mississippi. We will infuse Europe with a loftier democracy of the people's rule. Let us inject some antitoxin in the colorphobists of this country, to the end that the valiant black soldier away on the firing line in the trenches of Europe may know that his property will not be burned or his female relatives harmed by mobs or Ku-Klux Klans of blood-thirsty demons."

Capitol

Topeka, Kan.

FEB 27 1917

A year ago five negroes were lynched in Georgia for the murder of a sheriff. Now it turns out that none of them had anything to do with the crime. "What a commentary upon the cursed institution of lynching," exclaims the Atlanta Constitution. The far South has a long way to go in its dealing with the negro before it approaches a civilized condition. It is not merely lynch law, but the widespread concubinage of negro girls and women and consequent incest, the economic enslavement of the plantation hands, the denial to the negro of recognition as a human being invested with human rights. Nobody envies the South its great problem.

NEWPORT NEWS VA PRESS

AUGUST 18, 1917

### WHY THE LYNCHING

The fine record of old Virginia has been spoiled by a lynching in Northumberland County. What a pity! Why was the lynching necessary? The crime is fixed in Virginia and the penalty is sure. Why should not the culprit have been tried and punished as the law directs? What possible good was accomplished by mob law that would not have been better accomplished by the orderly execution of the law of the land? Mob law is not necessary in Virginia. There is positively no excuse for it.



# Discussions

## OUR RECORD OF VIOLENCE.

Admission 12-20-17

In thirty-two years 2,500 negroes have been lynched in the United States, according to data assembled by the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People. The report does not include the number of whites lynched, but it might have stated them. From 1885 to December, 1915, there were 3,638 lynchings of people of all colors. It is seen, therefore, that a much larger percentage of whites are killed by mobs than we are accustomed to think, although of course a vast majority of the victims are negroes.

In 1916, up to November, there were fifty-five lynchings in the United States, of which only one occurred in Northern States, if we count Missouri a Southern State, which we are justified in doing. It is gratifying to recall that whereas fifteen and twenty years ago Alabama was near the top of the list in the number of lynchings committed each year, yet in 1916 Alabama was the scene of but one such act of violence. South Carolina had one lynching and Missouri one. That is as good a showing as Kansas made that year. Alabama Governors in late years have striven to make lynching an unpopular and unsafe indulgence.

Europeans reproach us, with justice, for the violence we tolerate in America. Human life is not so safe in this country as it is in any other advanced country of the world, an unpleasant fact which Americans freely admit.

The average number of murders in the United States annually during the twenty years, 1885-1904 was 6,597. The estimated number of homicides in the continental United States for 1916 is 7,450. The excessive mortality from homicide among the negroes is indicated by the following figures: For the available five-year period in New Orleans the colored rate from homicide was 65.9 per 100,000 of population as against 9.1 for the whites; in Savannah the rate was 49.4 for the negroes as against 13.7 for the white population.

Yet, notwithstanding the 7,450 killings that occurred in this country in 1916, there were only 107 legal executions. Does not this disparity of ratio suggest the point of weakness in our criminal jurisprudence? The State permits the individual to kill with comparative impunity; practically the individual does not permit his State to kill in return. Theoretically our States demand an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth; but practically when it loses an eye it only demands

a tooth in compensation for the loss. Of the 4,847 homicides committed in 1916, 959 were females. Woman is naturally less violent than man; we expect her to kill less quickly; yet, when she does kill she goes free more readily than man does. No wonder Abe Martin reported that Mrs. Lafa Bud said there were a lot of things she wouldn't put up with, "if she was purty enough to git acquitted."

We not only tolerate mobs and the individual life-taker, but we take our own lives at an amazing rate. The estimated number of suicides in the entire United States, excluding its insular possessions, in 1916 was 17,000! About three times as many men as women commit suicide. The suicide rate is higher in the larger cities.

However, comparison of suicide figures gives us much more comfort than comparisons of murder statistics with the statistics of other countries. We lead in murder, but in suicide we are led by others.

The average annual suicide rates for the more important countries in a recent five-year period are as follows: Switzerland 23.4; France, 22.8; German Empire, 22.5; Austria, 19.2; Hungary, 18.9; Denmark 18.5; Japan, 18.2; Sweden, 17.6; United States registration area (our system of registration is not so thorough as most of the other countries), 16.1—and so it goes until we get to England and Wales with only 9.9 per cent Scotland, 5.6 and Ireland 3.4. All of which is based on 100,000 population.

We are accustomed to think that Japan and Germany lead in suicides, yet we find Switzerland and France ahead of them in this particular, though their excess is nominal.

## CORNWELL SAYS REFUSAL OF M'CALL IS REFLECTION

Writes Scorching Letter  
Regarding Release of  
Negro

Admission 11-22-17  
(Associated Press.)  
CHARLESTON, W. VA., Nov. 21.—Characterizing the refusal of Governor McCall, of Massachusetts, to honor his requisition for the return to West Virginia for trial of John Johnson, a negro, charged with attacking a white girl in this city, as constituting "a

reflection upon the state of West Virginia and shows a deplorable lack of knowledge of it and its people," Governor John J. Cornwell has made public a letter which he had written to the Massachusetts executive. Previous to receiving Governor McCall's letter declining to honor the requisition, Governor Cornwell had written to the Massachusetts governor a personal letter guaranteeing that no harm should come to Johnson and declaring "there is absolutely no danger of Johnson being lynched or otherwise mistreated."

### Letter of Governor.

Governor Cornwell's letter as sent to Governor McCall follows: "I have your letter declining to honor my requisition for the return of John Johnson, now in your city charged with rape in this county.

### Marked As to Facts.

"With all due respect to the representatives of your state, who visited this city for the alleged purpose of making an investigation regarding the case, I am compelled to say that he has evidently misled you as to the facts in this matter. The suggestion that exaggerated reports of the crime have been generally circulated in the community and that on account of the nature of these reports and the race of the defendant, there exists a prejudice which would be difficult, if not impossible of control by the most upright judge, is not only unwarranted and untrue but is a reflection upon this state, and its courts, which I very frankly and respectfully resent. It is not justified by any records or incidents connected with the state since its organization.

"The prosecuting attorney of this country, in a letter to me, advises that your 'trained officers' who came to this city for the alleged purpose of investigating the cases, were here several days before calling upon any officer of the state or county; that he frequented the 'red light' district where Johnson's alleged crime was committed in an apparent effort to obtain information which would warrant his making an adverse report; that, on the very day he left Charleston, he called at the office of the prosecuting attorney for the first time; that the prosecuting attorney gave him the names of a great many witnesses whom he could not have interviewed before leaving the city, and gave him all the facts within the possession of the state's representatives.

### No Representative of W. Va.

"The prosecuting attorney requested the privilege of presenting West Virginia's side of the case at the coming hearing of Johnson in Massachusetts and was assured it was not necessary to do so, but when he insisted upon making that appearance, he was told he would be advised when the matter was to be again heard and that no such advice was received, and that the prosecuting attorney had no intimation or information relative to the time of the further hearing as promised.

"Only a few days ago I honored a requisition for the return of an alleged fugitive to your state. The crime with which he was charged was insignificant and unimportant as compared with the one with which Johnson is charged and for which two people now are serving sentence in the state peni-

tentiary as accessories.

### Constitute a Reflection.

"Your refusal to grant this requisition for the reasons, as alleged, constitutes a reflection upon the state of West Virginia and shows a deplorable lack of knowledge of it and its people. It also, in my opinion, tends to thwart the ends of justice and violates the spirit of comity between the states to such an extent that I shall feel compelled to scrutinize with more than usual care any similar requisition from you."

The crime with which Johnson is charged was an attack on a 14 year old white girl, alleged to have been committed in December, 1916. Nine persons were indicted in the case, seven of whom now are serving sentences for the crime.

GREENSBORO NEWS  
JULY 26

## LYNCH LAW IN THE NORTH

What is the matter with the North and the Negro? Last week in Brooklyn, New York, one thousand persons were prevented by naval militia-men from lynching Conrad Hart, a negro who had killed his wife. The veracious Herald reports that the crowd was yelling "Lynch him!"; they tossed the negro into the air and trampled on his body—and he is described as a very small man who weighs but 110 pounds. A few days before in a Connecticut village the police authorities barely succeeded in saving a white man from a white mob. The Philadelphia papers have been full of crimes by the negroes who have come there from the South. Last Sunday a negro desperado and a Philadelphia policeman had a duel in a park, in which the negro was shot twice and the officer fatally wounded. On the same day three negroes committed two hold-ups and a near-murder. There was an exciting all night man hunt in which three hundred armed men—Pennsylvanians, not South Carolinians or Georgians—aided the police. The Philadelphia Record says that "the searchers were in such mood that the officers confessed that at times they feared summary vengeance would be wreaked upon the negro suspects"—in other words, they feared that the blacks would be taken from jail and lynched.

What has come over the spirit of the North's dreams of negro equality, of the capability of the black man as a citizen? The negro is now a fact and not a theory in that section. The North is finding out that the bad negro is vicious and brutal and is going to handle him very much as the South does. Since the black migration descended upon the North, a good deal more mob violence has taken place there than in the South, which merely goes to show that not by the operation of any theory of social or political equality and not by any enactment of law can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots. Mob violence is not sectional. Lynch law is not bounded by Mason and Dixon's line. It will follow the bad negro wherever he goes.



JULY 5, 1917

## PRESIDENT SHEPARD'S TIMELY APPEAL

FROM Professor James E. Shepard, president of the National Training School for the colored, at Durham, North Carolina. The Evening Journal is in receipt of the following telegram:

Increasing lynchings of a helpless people both north and south, in many instances for trivial things, are having depressing effects on a people who love their country and who are loyal and true to the flag. The courts of the land are in control of the whites, so there is never an excuse for a lynching. All crimes should be justly and severely punished and there need be no fear that any negro criminal or supposed criminal will ever escape. The negro is asking for a right to live and to hope. I appeal to the righteous sense of the Anglo-Saxon and ask the aid of your fearless paper to stir up sentiment against lynchings, the murder of helpless women and children, and the burnings of human beings. The spirit of the Anglo-Saxon is for fair play and that the strong do not unnecessarily oppress the weak. Please arouse this dormant spirit and cause America to awaken so that all together we can work side by side to help make the world a better place in which people can live.

Doubtless, this appeal is directly inspired by the disgraceful scenes at East St. Louis, where the outrageous attacks on the negroes, resulting in many wanton killings, have aroused the nation to a sense of its shortcomings. Not that the whites are wholly to blame; the northern labor element is alarmed lest a plethora of negro man-power shall crowd out the whites. In such circumstances civilizing influences, never more than veneer, quickly disappear and the primary instinct of self-preservation dominates. That the negroes have been deluded into believing many foolish things of the north The Evening Journal has heretofore shown; but no matter what their personal beliefs, they are entitled to protection from mob law, and in failing to provide it the authorities at East St. Louis have been culpably negligent. The situation has been tense for many weeks; prudence alone should have impelled the local government to prepare to hold in check the angry passions they saw rising.

But the south as well as the north, justly complains President Shepard, is derelict in the treatment of the negroes. Lynchings are inexcusable manifestations of the mob spirit. Always, the courts, controlled by the whites, are competent to deal with any violation of the law, and the chances of a proved negro malefactor escaping punishment are infinitesimally small. However, better that one guilty person shall escape than that a dozen innocent men shall suffer unjustly. The south is fond of its colored population, in a superior, paternalistic sort of way, and is keen to resent unfair treatment of a negro individually. If the south, en masse, would declare for stern justice for the black man at all times and unite in opposition to lynch law, much good would result; the deluded negro, convinced by the happenings at East St. Louis and elsewhere of his mistake, would return to the south, more content with his lot than ever before and more convinced than ever that the

southern people are his real friends. Let the negroes cultivate a spirit of race pride, live up to standards taught by Dr. Booker Washington, President Shepard and others of the race leaders and the increasing respect they will have for their own kind will, in time, be paralleled by the genuine respect they will command from the white race.

## THE RIGHT KIND OF GOVERNOR AND THE RIGHT KIND OF NEWSPAPER

*The Journal & Guide, 9/1/17*  
What this Nation needs now, and needs badly, is the right kind of Governor in each State and the right kind of newspaper. Get the two in the same situation and they can accomplish wonders for the dignity of the State and the honor of the people of the State. Governor Henry Clay Stuart of Virginia is that kind of Governor and the Washington Times is that kind of newspaper. A Negro by the name of Burgess was accused of attacking two white women in Alexandria county, near Washington. A mob threatened to lynch him. The Washington Times got the Governor on the long distance telephone Sunday last and this is what the Governor said:

There will be no lynching in Alexandria county tonight—nor tomorrow night.

I have received no word from the sheriff or any of the officials of the county that trouble is expected. But I know that there will be no lynching.

It is practically impossible for a mob to storm a jail and take a prisoner from the keeping of the sheriff and his deputies, especially when the latter are forewarned. It can't be done in Virginia, and it won't be done.

What precautions have been taken to protect the Negro, I am not at liberty to state. The militia is now in Federal service and is no longer the organization that it once was. But there are various ways of offering protection to prisoners.

There was a lynching in Northumberland county a few days ago. That occurred, however, so suddenly that it was impossible for the governor to give aid. The Negro committed a crime, escaped, was apprehended, and lynched within four hours. He never was taken to a jail.

Since I have been governor, I have saved the lives of at least five men who have been threatened at the hands of a mob. In Charlotte county three weeks ago, I was asked for aid in protecting a Negro from a mob, and I gave it. The man was not harmed.

I am willing to stand on my past record in the present case. I am not at liberty at this hour to state upon what I base my declaration. But another lynching is not to occur in Virginia at this time.

And this is what the Washington Times says:

We publish on the front page a statement from Governor Stuart which will be indorsed by the law-abiding citizens of Virginia.

A criminal captured is safely locked in jail, the law in its dignity will deal with him. Punishment will be prompt and there will be no question of disgracing a community or bringing the law into contempt by any violent action.

Governor Stuart in the message that he sends a long distance telephone to The Times makes clear fact that no man need anticipate violence or contempt for law.

The State of Virginia and the men of Virginia are well able, through their chosen officials and their legal machinery, to deal with crime. They are men of self-restraint and character, and value the good name of their State and respect for law.

The governor's prediction is sound, as events will prove.

There is no higher law in the State of Virginia than the laws of the State of Virginia, and the Governor says they are sufficient to protect the innocent and punish the criminal, and it is so. When the Governor goes further and says the laws shall be respected, and that he knows that they will be, he speaks as the Governor of the State of Virginia should always speak, and the people of the State should respect him and sustain him.

## A LYNCHING THAT WAS NOTICED

*The Journal & Guide, 9/27/17*  
The lynching in Montana of Frank Little, a member of the executive board of the Industrial Workers of the World, on account of his activities in inciting labor troubles, has received more attention in the columns of the press than all the thirty-odd lynchings of Negroes that have occurred since January 1st. Papers in all parts of the country have devoted more or less space to the untimely and unlawful taking off of Mr. Little, some finding grounds upon which to excuse it and others taking the position that it was indefensible from any viewpoint. Even Dr. Lyman Abbott's reverent "Outlook," which passed the recent Memphis horror without comment, made a very strained effort to become horrified at the lawlessness of the six Bute men who summarily executed the I. W. W. leader.

The American conscience needs to be reached on the lynching evil, and the occasional lynching of a white man affords the Church and the white press, religious and secular, an opportunity to be quoted against the great American evil. The lynching of Negroes does not seem to arouse any appreciable interest on the part of press or pulpit, and so far as the federal government is concerned intervention would be an invasion of "States' rights."



# NEGRO RAPISTS TO DIE NEXT FRIDAY

Electric Chair at State Prison  
Made Ready For Its Next  
Victims.

NASHVILLE, TENN., JAN. 10, 1917

Unless a commutation or a reprieve comes to stay the hand of the executioner, Ed J. Alsup and J. D. Williams, convicted Negro rapists, will die in the electric chair at the state penitentiary early Friday morning. The chair is being made ready for the execution.

The two young Negroes, conscious of the awful fate that awaits them, are waiting restlessly in the "death cell" at the county jail where they will be kept until Thursday afternoon and then taken to the prison. The few remaining hours they will spend in the "death house."

Jailer Ferrall, who has the prisoners in charge, has been instructed to allow no one to see or to converse with them unless special permission is given by the governor.

Prison officials will make a test of the electric chair to see that it is in good working order before the fatal day. The chair has been idle since the electrocution of a young Negro more than a year ago, and has served its gruesome purpose only once since that method of administering capital punishment was substituted for the gallows in this state. When Alsup and Williams have paid their penalty Friday morning, the death-dealing chair will have claimed three victims, all Negro rapists.

The fate of the condemned Negroes now rests in the hands of the governor and it is said that there have been no efforts made in their behalf by friends or relatives.

The crime for which Alsup and Williams were convicted was of a most hideous nature and one which caused a sensation in the section where it was enacted. If the two Negroes are electrocuted Friday morning, they will only receive the punishment they narrowly escaped several months ago when Giles county officers eluded a mob of infuriated people at Lynnville, the scene of the crime, and rushed them to Nashville for safe keeping.

Alsup and Williams remained at the county jail after being brought here the first time. Five weeks ago they were secretly taken to Pulaski, tried for rape and convicted. The court sentenced them to die in the electric chair on the morning of Dec. 14, and they were returned to Nashville the following day.

## CONFESSES TO ATTACK BEFORE BEING HANGED

McDonough, Ga., January 12.—(Special.)—Harris Sutton, 16-year-old negro, was hanged today at 10 o'clock for attacking a 10-year-old white girl on December 3. Sutton declared his innocence until this morning a few hours before the time for his execution. Judge Searcy called a special term of court to try Sutton. He was confined in the Fulton county tower until today, when Sheriff Ward brought him to McDonough for execution.

# MILES HANGED AT BRADENTOWN Convicted Slayer of Mother and Baby Said to Have Confessed to Crime

(Special to the Amsterdam News)  
Bradentown, Fla., July 28.—The hanging of W. B. Miles took place here with guards posted about the courthouse and within the jail, where the gallows was built. Miles was convicted of the murder of Mrs. W. S. Palmer and baby. Just before the sentence was executed he repeated his confession, saying no one other than himself had a hand in the murder of Mrs. Palmer and her baby, and the assault on a 15-year-old girl last April 20. Only a small crowd witnessed the hanging.

This paper last week handled exclusively the news of how Miles had narrowly escaped hanging and had to be removed under guard of Florida militia from Jacksonville to Bradentown.

## THIS NEGRO FARMER MAY BE STRAPPED TO "CHAIR" GUTHRIE OKLA LEADER JAN. 23, 1917

Roach Younger, young negro cotton farmer living in the Seward neighborhood, charged with criminal assault on the person of Azzie Corbin, 14-year-old girl, was held without bail for trial in the district court, by Judge Hornaday in justice court last night. The charge is a statutory one in the first degree and is punishable by life imprisonment or by death in the electric chair. Many colored citizens of the Seward district were here as witnesses. Younger is married and has several children.

## NEGROES ARE KEPT FROM MOB AND GET SENTENCE OF DEATH

(Associated Press.)  
RICHMOND, VA., July 27.—Albert Barrett and his son, Aubrey, 17 years old, negroes, who narrowly escaped being lynched by a mob of several hundred citizens last week after being arrested for murdering W. R. Roach, a prominent farmer of Charlotte County, were convicted last evening and sentenced to die in the electric chair August 31.

Troops were called out last week to protect the negroes. The slayers confessed. Aubrey said he struck Roach with a piece of iron and that his father completed the killing. Roach accused the negroes of stealing wheat.

from  
Address: New Britain, Conn.

Date: JAN 12 1917

16 YEAR OLD NEGRO LYNCHED.  
McDonough, Ga., Jan. 12.—Harris Sutton, sixteen years old, negro, assaulted a ten year old white girl December 3, was hanged here today.

## TWO NEGROES TO DIE FOR ASSAULT ON GIRL

Nashville, Tenn., October 24.—Ed James Alsup and J. B. Williams, negroes, charged with criminal assault on a young girl, were found guilty at Pulaski yesterday and sentenced to die in the electric chair December 14. The offense was committed several weeks ago in the Lynnville section and for several days mobs threatened the Pulaski jail, but the negroes had been spirited away.

## Negro Confesses to Assault—Is Hanged

McDONOUGH, GA., Jan. 12.—Harris Sutton, a 16-year-old negro, convicted of assaulting a 10-year-old white girl December 3, was hanged here today. Sutton had denied he was guilty until a few hours before he went to the scaffold, when he confessed that evidence brought out at his trial was true. He had been confined in Atlanta since conviction.

HERALD



## Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

4 WHITE MEN WHO  
AIDED IN KILLING  
NEGROES KNOWN

UTS MO POST-DISPATCH

11, 1917

Coroner's Jury Resumes Hearing  
and Is Expected to Get Addi-  
tional Names Today.

## OFFICIALS DENOUNCED

Attorney-General Says Disre-  
spect for Law Was to Blame  
for Race Riot.

With the resumption of the inquest into the East St. Louis race riots this afternoon it became known that the Coroner, as the result of testimony given at the previous session, has the names of four white men who aided in murdering negroes July 2. It also was said that today's testimony was expected to implicate two other white men.

The inquest, thus far held behind closed doors, is also understood to have revealed the names of a number of negroes who were in the mob which killed two policemen the night of July 1, thus precipitating the riots.

Scott Clark, a negro who was injured by the mob, died at St. Mary's Hospital today. The known total of negro deaths to 32.

Was Dragged Through Street.  
Clark was the man whom the mob tried to hang at Fourth street and Broadway late in the afternoon of July 2 as graphically described by Carlos E. Hurd of the Post-Dispatch staff in his eyewitness account of the rioting.

The negro, who was a teamster, was in his home when it was set on fire by the mob. When he ran out to escape the flames he was caught by the mob. A rope was tied about his neck and preparations were being made to hang him when someone suggested that "we drag him around a little while." He was dragged through the street with the rope while members of the mob stoned him and shot at him. One bullet struck him.

A second attempt to hang him was about to be made when he was rescued by a squad of militiamen under command of Col. Tripp.

G. W. Middlekauf, assistant to Attorney-General Brundage, today told a Post-Dispatch reporter that Brundage last night conferred with Mayor Mollman and made a personal demand that

the Mayor at once reorganize the police force. He told the Mayor that under present conditions the Police Department could be of little use to the Attorney-General's office in gathering evidence on which to base prosecutions.

## Mollman Makes No Promises.

Mayor Mollman, according to Middlekauf, made no promise that he would accede to the demand and said he wanted time to consult with his friends.

Middlekauf was in conference with the Mayor and several of Mollman's political advisers today. He said the Mayor, in a general way, promised full co-operation with the State authorities, but said nothing to indicate he would reorganize the Police Department. Police Commissioners Schein and Schmidt were at the conference.

## Disrespect for Law Cause of Race Riots, Attorney-General Says.

Edward J. Brundage, Attorney-General of Illinois, told a Post-Dispatch reporter today in East St. Louis that he had come to East St. Louis to take complete charge of the riot investigation and that State's Attorney H. E. Schaumleffel would only be asked for such aid as the Attorney-General may think Schaumleffel can give. Brundage made it plain that the investigation would not be left to the discretion of East St. Louis or St. Clair County officials.

With Brundage were his assistants, James H. Wilkerson, William E. Trautman and C. W. Middlekauf, who will remain to conduct the investigation, assisted by John E. Hamlin of East St. Louis and James Farmer, former State's Attorney, of Belleville.

Brundage expressed the belief that the riot was the culmination of a widespread disregard of and disrespect for the law of St. Clair County officials and some citizens.

"We mean to teach a respect for the law in this county," he declared, "and to make sure that the lives and property of all law-abiding citizens shall be safe."

The local police and other authorities will not be depended on in gathering evidence against the rioters and other law-breakers, Brundage added.

## To Take Up Lawlessness Later.

Conditions of vice and immorality in general, which have prevailed and been denounced by prominent citizens, will be disposed of later, Brundage promised. Important evidence on this phase of St. Clair County lawlessness, he added, has been gathered and he believes sufficient information is in possession of the State to secure convictions.

GRAND JURY IS  
INVESTIGATINGMemphis Officials Make First  
Move to Apprehend the  
Murderers of Eli  
Persons.6-7-17  
JUDGE PURYEAR'S CHARGE

Instructs Jurymen to Carefully Con-  
sider All Evidence Produced in Dis-  
graceful Affair Which Has Been  
Bitterly Condemned by Negroes  
Throughout the Country.

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)

Memphis, Tenn.—The grand jury has taken up the lynching of Eli Persons, who was beheaded and his body burned by a mob some days ago. While the grand jury has not been called upon to exercise its inquisitorial powers in discovering those who took part in the lynching, it has been told by Judge D. B. Puryear that when the facts have been placed before them they must be acted upon fearlessly, fairly and impartially.

Judge Puryear's charge to the grand jury follows:

"It is a matter of general knowledge that on the day this grand jury was empaneled, a Negro, Eli Persons, who was under indictment by this court, was taken from the officers of the law and killed by a large crowd of unmasked men at a place within the county of Shelby, and, therefore, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court and grand jury.

"The crime with which Persons was charged and of which he was undoubt-

ingly opposed by few. Not a voice outside the sworn officers of the law was raised in behalf of an orderly and lawful procedure in the case and not an offer of assistance made to the officers by a citizen.

"This preponderance of public sentiment, however, does not change the law and does not relieve me of my duty as a judge nor you of your duty as a grand jury to enforce the law. The act of a man or any number of men in killing Eli Persons because he himself was guilty of an atrocious crime was an unlawful act and all persons participating in it, or present, aiding and abetting, or ready and willing to aid and abet it,

are guilty.

"This is not an offense which falls within your inquisitorial powers, as that has been explained to you, but it is the duty of officers of the law and the right of every citizen to bring before you the facts relating to this transaction, and I charge you when such facts are presented to you that you act upon them fearlessly, fairly and impartially.

"As before stated, the law is that all persons present, aiding or abetting, or ready and willing to aid and abet in the commission of a criminal offense, are guilty as principals, and that the killing of Eli Persons by a crowd of men who assumed to punish him for his crime is a criminal offense.

"It is your duty to return indictments against all persons who, under the foregoing statement of the law, you find to be guilty of a criminal offense in connection with this affair, and the attorney-general will advise you as to the grade of the offense, and draw such indictments as may be necessary if the proof presented justifies them."

WHITE MEN CONVICTED  
FOR RACE RIOT MURDERWood and Keane Arrested in  
East St. Louis While  
Dragging Negro.

Belleville, Ill., October 12.—Herbert Wood and Leo Keane were found guilty this afternoon of the murder of Scott Clark, a negro, who died as a result of injuries received in the recent race riots in East St. Louis, and the penalty was fixed at fourteen years' imprisonment. Wood and Keane were the first white men to be tried on charges growing out of the race riot.

The jury was out two hours. Ten negroes were found guilty last Monday and five were given indeterminate sentences of fourteen years.

Witnesses for the state testified that Wood and Keane were arrested as they were dragging Clark along the street by a rope, which had been fastened about his neck. Keane is only 17 years old.

Next Monday three more white men will be placed on trial on charges growing out of the riots.

Assistant Attorney General Middlekauf, of Illinois, closing the arguments in the trial of Wood and Keane, had asked the death penalty for Wood and a severe prison sentence for Keane.

"The reason the attorney general's office is taking part in this prosecution," he said, "is that it has gone beyond the bounds of this county and even of this state in its importance. If negro hunts are permissible, we will have to keep soldiers in every city in the state, and we can't send them to Europe."

The number of known dead in the race riots at East St. Louis on July 2 is 47. The outbreak was due to the killing of a detective and wounding of two policemen in an attempt to disperse a mob of negroes. The grand jury reported that, in reality, the riots were due to agitators among whites and negroes over importation of the latter from southern states for industrial purposes.

LIMA RIOTER EXPECTING

FREEDOM, SENTENCED

The Jackson Tribune  
Lima, Jan. 29.—Common Pleas Judge William Klinger, who announced several days ago that he would suspend sentence against all who pleaded guilty to participating in the mob outbreak last August when an attempt was made to lynch the Afro-American, Charles Daniels, dropped a bomb in the ranks of the rioters today. Bert Meyers, barber, one of thirty-four men indicted in connection with the riot, appeared before court and pleaded guilty, but in place of a suspended sentence was given ten years in the penitentiary. Meyers almost collapsed and had to be supported to a chair. Judge Klinger stated that evidence showed Meyers to be a ringleader.

PROBE OF LYNCHING  
ORDERED BY STATE

Governor Henderson Wednesday afternoon wrote the sheriff of Lowndes county to make a thorough investigation and report of the alleged lynching of the two Powell negroes early Tuesday night. The men were being taken from Montgomery to Hayneville by Deputies Grant and Mastin, when a mob took them away from the deputies and lynched them.

Governor Henderson says he intends to have a thorough probe of the affair.



Near Lynching in which the Law did not Interfere

# CAVALRY JOINS IN SEARCH FOR NEGRO; LYNCHING IS FEARED

(Special to The Advertiser.)

TUSCALOOSA, April 16—Armed citizens, police, sheriffs, deputies and members of the first Alabama cavalry are searching for an unknown negro who assaulted Miss Seada Barrett, a clerk in a store in the outskirts this afternoon and should he be caught he will most likely be summarily dealt with. The negro choked Miss Barrett into insensibility and made his escape before she could summon assistance.

One day last week the negro bought some articles of Miss Barrett and when she presented a gun when he would not pay her, he knocked the gun from her hand and knocked her down, making his escape. As Miss Barrett returned from dinner today she saw the negro who recognized her and ran away. An alarm was given and while the officers were searching for him, the negro came into the store and attacked Miss Barrett, threatening to kill her if she reported him again.

Miss Barrett is in a serious condition from fright and bruise.

Officers in other sections have been notified and a thorough search is being made.



Lynchings-1917

Prevented

369

From EVENING POST

Address: New York City

# GOVERNOR FACES MOB TO PROTECT NEGRO

## Threats to Lynch Stanley of Kentucky

### SITUATION AT MURRAY CALMER

Lives of Judge Who Granted Delay in Trial of Prisoner, Charged with Killing White Man, and of Prosecutor in Peril at One Time—Governor Appeals to Crowd Declaring His Determination to Uphold Law at All Costs to Himself—His Words Have Quieting Effect—Deputized Citizens in Lieu of National Guard.

MURRAY, Ky., January 11.—"I have come here to uphold law and order and to protect this court with my own body, if necessary," was the declaration with which Gov. A. O. Stanley faced a crowd which filled all available space of the circuit room of the Calloway County Court House here to-day.

Notified last night that a mob was threatening the life of Judge Charles Bush and Commonwealth's Attorney Smith, Governor Stanley chartered a special train and started for Murray. He arrived here early to-day accompanied by two or three friends.

With almost every available member of the Kentucky National Guard mobilized on the Mexican border, he was forced to rely on those forces he could summon to his aid after his arrival here for the maintenance of order.

His first move after his arrival in Murray was to denounce several five citizens

and order them to prevent at all costs any outbreak. His next was to make an address to the crowd which filled the courtroom when court convened. For more than a half-hour Governor Stanley explained his purpose in coming to Murray and affirmed his determination to prevent an outbreak at any cost to himself or others.

#### GOVERNOR'S PLEA TO MOB

"A little more than a year ago," he said, "I put my right hand upon a Bible and called to God to witness that, as Chief Magistrate of Kentucky and supporter of the law, I would maintain its integrity. I have come here to-day to plead with you to allow the law to take its orderly course and to declare that I am here to uphold the law and to protect this court, with my own body, if necessary."

Gov. Stanley's address was apparently well received, except by a few persons in the rear of the courtroom, who set up a cry of "Bring in the negro now. Try the negro now; don't wait!"

The negro to whom they referred, Lube Martin, is now in the city jail at Paducah, Ky., and will not be brought to Murray, it was announced, until Gov. Stanley himself gives orders to that effect.

After Gov. Stanley had concluded his address it was announced that the time and place for the trial of Martin would be made public later in the day. The greater part of the crowd which had filled the courtroom then filed out in an orderly manner.

The tension which has existed here for the last twenty-four hours appears to have been considerably relieved by the Governor's efforts.

#### SITUATION MUCH CALMER

It was indicated after Gov. Stanley left the court house that he considered the situation so much improved he probably would start back to Frankfort before the end of the day. Even before he spoke there were evidences that the arrival of the State's Chief Magistrate had a sobering effect, and there was but little evidence of the excitement in the crowd which filled into the courtroom prior to the convening of court which so stirred the town yesterday and last night.

Threats had been made to lynch Judge Bush and Commonwealth's Attorney Smith, because of a continuation of the trial of Martin, accused of killing a white man named Guthrie Duiguid. Even the life of the Governor was threatened if he interfered with efforts to have Martin tried at once.

From WORLD

Address: New York City

Date Jan 12/17

# GOVERNOR'S LUCK AND ORATORY WIN LYNCHING IS OFF

"Here to Uphold Law and Order," Stanley Warns Kentucky Mob That Shouts "Don't Wait! Try Negro Now!"

THEN, AWED BY HIS WORDS, THEY QUIT COURT QUIETLY.

For Safety Executive Takes Away on His Special Threatened Judge and Prosecutor.

MURRAY, Ky., Jan. 11.—As a result of the visit of Gov. Stanley of Kentucky to the scene, the mob excitement which last night threatened the lives of Circuit Judge Charles Bush and Commonwealth Attorney Denny Smith appears to-night to be subsiding.

After Gov. Stanley had made a dramatic speech to the hostile crowd in the Court House and had gone about the town exerting his influence to quiet the knots of men in the streets, he found the tension so much relaxed that he was able to leave the city on his special train, taking with him the threatened Judge and Prosecutor.

The excitement arose in the first place because of Judge Bush's action yesterday in continuing the trial of Lube Martin, a negro, for the murder of Guthrie Duiguid, a white man, because of the announcement of counsel for Martin that they had discovered new evidence in the case which required some time to develop.

Martin, who since his arrest has been kept at Hopkinsville for his own safety and only brought here under heavy guard for the trial, was spirited out of town once more. When the crowd in the court room learned of this they made a rush, surrounded the Judge and Prosecutor and demanded that the negro be brought back and put on trial instantly or their lives would be forfeited.

Judge Bush's declaration that this would be done pacified the mob for the time. Meanwhile Gov. Stanley hurried here from Frankfort in a special train. He was accompanied

by only three friends.

After a night spent by Judge Bush and Attorney Smith in a hotel guarded by a large posse of special deputies against the mob which threatened to dynamite the building, court was convened this morning and Gov. Stanley arose to address the scowling, hostile throng, muttering demands for the negro, who meanwhile had been removed to Paducah jail.

"I have come here to uphold law and order, and to protect this court with my own body if necessary," were Gov. Stanley's opening words. He had already, on his way to the scene, declared that if the mob were bent on lynching, they would have a chance "to lynch the Governor of Kentucky first."

As the Governor began, a few persons in the rear of the court room cried: "Bring the negro now. Try the negro now, don't wait!" But as he went on, his pluck and eloquence won attempt and a strong force of deputies, without further demands for action.

From Times Record

Address: St. Smith, Ark.

Date 12/20/17

# WOMEN LED MOB TO LYNCH NEGRO

AMITE CITY, La., March 26.—Sheriff Ballard of Tangipahoa parish and a posse of deputies arrived here tonight with Joe Rout, a 17-year-old negro, one of the five Rout brothers accused of the murder, last Thursday, of Simeon Bennett, a prominent white resident of Scanlon. Rout was rescued from a crowd of armed men, just in time to prevent a lynching, as members of the mob, the sheriff says, had thrown a rope over the limb of a tree and were fastening one end around the negro's neck. Two white women, the sheriff said, were directing preparations for the lynching. Two brothers of Joe Rout were arrested yesterday.

The other Rout brothers still are at large tonight, but are believed to be surrounded by posses of several hundred in a woods near Sangston. The negroes are believed to be well supplied with ammunition.

Bennett was killed when he went to the Rout cabin to collect a debt.

## ATTEMPT TO LYNCH NEGRO SOLDIER

(Associated Press.)

PUEBLO, COLO., Dec. 19.—A mob of Austrian residents was foiled last night in an attempt to take a negro soldier, Lewis Smith, from the city jail and lynch him. The men were told that the prisoner had been taken to another town. As soon as the mob dispersed, the officers hurried their prisoner out of the city in an automobile.

The negro is charged with having attacked a little Austrian girl.

From

Address: Bridgeport, Conn.

Date JAN 24 1917

# DEPUTY SHERIFFS REPULSE MOB ATTACK ON MEMPHIS JAIL

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 24.—Deputy sheriffs and police early today repulsed a mob of 200 determined men who twice stormed the county jail in an effort to lynch two negroes who confessed the killing of Walter Hooser, a white butcher.

One man, believed to be the ring-leader of the mob, was arrested. Word reached police headquarters that another mob would make another attempt and a strong force of deputies is guarding the jail.

# SHERIFF MOVES NEGRO FOR SAFETY FROM MOB

Jackson County Negro Surrenders for Safety After Cutting White Farmer.

Athens, Ga., May 28.—(Special.)—Foster Cauthon, a middle aged negro, was early this afternoon rushed from Jefferson by Sheriff Cliff Barber and Deputy Ned Pendergrass in a high-powered car for a safe jail, it being not known whether he was taken to Winndor or on to Atlanta.

Foster yesterday afternoon went to the home of J. H. Anthony, on the plantation of Charles Hill, prominent in Jackson county, and entered the house, sat down, borrowed Mr. Anthony's knife to cut a plug of tobacco, and then, is alleged, to have made grossly improper proposals concerning a white woman. Mrs. Anthony fled the house to a neighbor's, a mile away. When Mr. Anthony resented the remarks of the negro, who was drinking, he slashed him across the head, and then cut a six-inch gash on the neck and throat—with the white farmer's own knife. The negro ran. The wounded man was rushed to Jefferson for medical aid, and is in a serious condition. The negro eluded the thousands who sought him till early today, when they closed in on him in a swamp. All night parties had hunted him. When cornered he made a dash for liberty and succeeded in running the gauntlet. Hatless and shoeless he reached the county jail in Jefferson to give up—the jail being his safest place. He was then rushed away before the crowd discovered that he was in custody.

## Constitution Negro Mob After Negro

St. Louis, June 19.—A squad of police, with difficulty, dispersed a mob of about 30 negroes who gathered early today in front of police headquarters muttering threats against Walter Diggs, a negro who confessed to attacking and murdering Pearl Newbold, 9-year-old negro girl. The body of the negro girl was found in an ashpile in the rear of Diggs' home. Diggs implicated another negro.



From **TELEGRAPH**  
Macon, Ga.  
Address:  
Date **MAR 30 1917**

## Jailor's Daughter Prevents Lynching

Mrs. Lena Taylor Secures Keys to Trenton, Tenn., Jail, and Disappears When Mob Arrives.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 29.—White her father, Sheriff J. W. Davidson, de-  
ated with a mob demanding admittance  
to the Gibson county jail at Trenton early  
today. Mrs. Lena Taylor slipped through  
the crowd, got the jail keys and disap-  
peared, according to word received from  
Trenton. The mob sought Charles May, a  
negro, charged with having eloped to  
Illinois recently with a 15-year-old white  
girl. The crowd dispersed when it was  
covered the keys were gone.

## Sheriff's Posse Saves Negro After Mob Has Rope About His Neck

AMITE CITY, LA., March 25.—Sheriff Ballard, of Tangipahoa parish, and a posse of deputies arrived here to-  
night with Joe Rout, a seventeen-year-  
old negro, one of five Rout brothers  
accused of participating in the mur-  
der Saturday of Simeon Bennett, a  
prominent white resident of Scanlon.  
Rout was rescued from a mob of arm-  
ed men just in time to prevent a lyn-  
ching, as members of the mob, accord-  
ing to the sheriff, had thrown a rope  
over the limb of a tree and were fas-  
tening one end around the negroe's  
neck. Two white women, the sheriff  
said, were directing preparations for  
the lynching. Two brothers of Joe  
Rout were arrested yesterday.

Two other Rout brothers still were  
at liberty tonight but were believed  
to be surrounded in a woods near Scan-  
lon. Armed posses of citizens from  
Scanlon today were reinforced by  
Amite City residents and tonight it  
was estimated there were more than  
500 men searching the edge of the  
woods, the negroes supplied with am-  
munition and food by relatives and  
friends, are believed to be in hiding.  
Jerry Rout, the brother who is said to  
have fired the shot which caused Ben-  
nett's death, is one of the two still  
at large. Fears that the negroes would  
be lynched if captured were expressed  
by the authorities tonight.

Special precautions were taken to  
guard the jail here.  
Bennett was killed when he went to  
the Rout cabin at Scanlon, ten miles  
north, on Saturday to collect a debt.  
The Routs, according to the authori-  
ties, ordered Bennett from the premises  
and when he turned to leave several  
shots were fired, the one from Jerry  
Rout's pistol inflicting the wound which  
caused death.

From **STAR**  
Peoria, Ill.  
Address:  
Date **JAN 12 1917**

## LYNCHING MAY FOLLOW MURDER OF MARSHAL

Piqua, O., Friday.—Harvey Hake, aged 60, marshal of Covington, O., was shot and killed today by Bert Clark.

Clark is closely guarded in the jail at Troy for fear a mob which has gathered at Covington will cover the six miles to Troy and attempt to lynch him.

## Little Girl Defies Mob, But Brother Gets Scared And Delivers the Negro

Columbia, S. C., January 22.—The 14-year old daughter of Jailer J. P. Bowers, of Hampton, S. C., held a mob at bay with a pistol Saturday night when they came to take Dave Richards, a negro held on the charge of assaulting a white man. Her brother, however, fearing for her safety, took the weapon from her and the crowd took the negro into the woods, beat him badly and left him, he being found Sunday and brought to Columbia Sunday night.

The negro, said to have been drinking, assaulted an elderly man named Glover at Estill Saturday night, drawing a pistol on him. Richards was first placed in the jail at Estill but later was taken to Hampton, where the mob followed him. They were persuaded not to lynch the negro by Jailer Bowers. Richards will be given medical attention and returned to Hampton for trial.

## Chicago Defender SHOW HORROR AT 430/7

## MOST DETESTED CRIME

St. Louis Mo., June 29.—After the arrest of Diggs last week, confessed criminal who misused and badly mutilated the body of a small Race girl and afterwards threw her in an ash pit on Clark avenue, crowds estimated at 1,000 Race person, consisting of men and women, tried on three different occasions to take the slayer from the hands of the police at the Central District Police Station to lynch him. Their actions, while deplorable from the standpoint of those who love law and order, is conclusive evidence and argument in the most concrete form that the Race is not one of rapists. They detest this unseemly crime as much as any other people, yet the more prominent citizens stand clearly for the law taking its course, which is the only safeguard in any civilized community.

## LYNCHING WAS FEARED.

CLANTON, ALA., April 25.—Ois Burns, a negro is being held in the county jail here for safe keeping, following his arrest near Calera on a charge of attempted criminal assault on a highly respected white woman of that vicinity. The negro was arrested by the marshal of Calera and placed in the town jail, but fears of violence caused his transfer to the county jail here.

From **REPUBLICAN**  
Scranton, Pa.  
Address:  
Date **MAR 26 1917**

## SHERIFF AND POSSE PREVENT A LYNCHING

AMITE CITY, La., March 25.—Sheriff Ballard, of Tangipahoa parish, and a posse of deputies arrived here to-  
night with Joe Rout, a 17-year-old negro, one of five Rout brothers ac-  
cused of participating in the murder Saturday of Simeon Bennett, a promi-  
nent citizen of Scanlon.  
Rout was rescued from a mob of men and women just in time to pre-  
vent a lynching.

## LYNCHING PREVENTED BY DEPUTY SHERIFF

Deputy Sheriff J. G. Hardy out-talked a would-be lynching mob Wednesday when he dissuaded several hundred men and boys from taking the law into their hands in the case of Emmet Nash, a negro, implicated with Will Brown, another negro, who entered the home of Elmer Garner, at Lilburn, Ga., and after taking several articles entered a bedroom occupied by Garner's daughter.

Deputy Hardy was requested to go in search of the negro by George Pounds, a friend of Garner, and was the only officer who went. Pounds went with him, and they captured Nash. On the way to the jail at Nashville, Brown confessed that he was also with him when he entered the house.

Deputy Hardy and Mr. Pounds turned Brown over to the sheriff of Gwinnett county and returned for Nash. The were returning to Nashville by automobile when a mob attacked them and made an effort to take the negro, but Deputy Hardy "out-talked" them and carried Nash safely to jail.

## NEGRO AND YOUNG SON

## SAVED FROM LYNCHING

Lynchburg, Va., July 19.—After being rescued from mobs, Albert Barrett, negro, and his 14-year-old son, Aubrey, charged with the murder Monday at Red Gap, Charlotte county, of W. T. Roach, a young farmer, were lodged in jail here early today for safe keep-  
ing.

The negroes were captured by a mob early today near Mount Zion, about 15 miles from the scene of the crime, the mob immediately starting toward Red Gap with them.

Five men in an automobile with Aubrey Barrett were overtaken by mem-  
bers of the sheriff's posse and forced to give up their prisoner. A crowd of 200 armed men were debating the fate of Albert Barrett when a posse traveling another road reached Red Gap. Their hostile attitude disappeared after Sheriff Perrow, Commonwealth Attorney Light and other citizens had appealed to them to let the law take its course.

The killing of Roach followed a quar-  
rel he is said to have had with two negroes discovered stealing wheat from his barn.

## "TREASON" CHARGE MADE

## Negro Rushed to Atlanta to Prevent Possible Lynching.

The first arrest in Georgia on a charge of "treason" against the United States was registered at the Atlanta police station last night.

Coleman Akins, a 32-year-old negro, was rushed here by federal agents from Porterdale, near Covington, Ga., to prevent a mob at that place from lynching him, according to federal

From **Chronicle**  
Address:  
Date **MAR 26 1917**

## LYNCHING OF NEGROES NARROWLY AVERTED

He was attempting to incite negroes of that section against the whites, it is alleged, and the officers state he was being aided and abetted in this scheme by German agents.

Akins gave his home address as McDonough, Ga., and occupation as a car-  
penter.

He will be examined by United States District Attorney Hooper Alexander today.

## STATE PENITENTIARY HOLDS NEGRO SAFELY

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 8.—L. C. Persons, negro who confessed to hav-  
ing murdered Antoinette Rappal, 15-  
year-old school girl of Memphis was  
brought here tonight and placed in the  
state penitentiary for safekeeping.  
There was fear of mob violence in  
Memphis.

Officers who brought the negro to  
Nashville report that at Jackson, Lex-  
ington and other towns along the  
route mobs made insistent demands  
that the negro be turned over to them  
but they were told that the negro  
was an escaped convict, and not the  
murderer of the little girl. No one  
was allowed to see the negro on his  
arrival in Nashville, and officials at  
the penitentiary refuse to say in what  
cell he is being kept.

The murder of the child occurred on  
the outskirts of Memphis April 30th.  
The little girl's head was chopped off  
with an axe.

## SOLDIERS ON GUARD AT TRIAL OF NEGRO

BRADENTOWN, FLA., July 6.—A  
company of state military with two  
machine guns guarded the court house  
here tonight while Judge Reaves held  
a night session of the circuit court in  
an effort to obtain a jury to try Will  
Miles, negro charged with the murder  
of Mrs. W. F. Farmer and her baby  
last April. Indications were late to-  
night the jury would not be completed  
until tomorrow. No disorder was re-  
ported. Judge Reaves appointed the  
entire Bradentown Bar as counsel for  
the accused.

## ATTEMPT AT LYNCHING FAILS

Austrian Mob at Pueblo, Col., Sought Life of Negro Soldier.

PUEBLO, Col., December 19 (by A. P.).—A mob of Austrian residents was foiled last night in an attempt to take a negro soldier, Lewis Smith, from the city jail and lynch him. The men were told that the prisoner had been taken to another town. As soon as the mob dispersed the officers hurried their prisoner out of the city in an automobile.

The negro is charged with having at-  
tacked a little Austrian girl.

From **Chronicle**  
Address:  
Date **MAR 26 1917**

## LYNCHING OF NEGROES NARROWLY AVERTED

## Rescued From Mob by Sheriff and Deputies Just in Time—Two White Women Were Directing Preparations for the Lynching.

Amite City, La., March 25.—Sheriff Ballard, of Tangipahoa Parish, and a posse of deputies arrived here tonight with Joe Rout, a 17-year-old negro, one of five Rout brothers accused of participating in the murder Saturday of Simeon Bennett, a prominent resident of Scanlon. Rout was rescued from a mob of armed men just in time to prevent a lynching, as members of the mob, according to the sheriff, had thrown a rope over the limb of a tree and were fastening the end around the negro's neck. Two white women, the sheriff said, were directing preparations for the lynching. Two brothers of Joe Rout were arrested yesterday.

Two other Rout brothers still were at large tonight, but were believed to be surrounded in a woods near Scanlon. Armed posses of citizens from Scanlon today were reinforced by Amite City residents, and tonight it was estimated there were more than 500 men searching the edge of the woods where the negroes, supplied with ammunition and food by relatives and friends, are believed to be in hiding. Jerry Rout, the brother who is said to have fired the shot which caused Bennett's death, is one of the two still at large.

## Carolina Girl, 14, Holds Mob at Bay, Saves Negro

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 22.—The story of how a 14-year-old girl, the daughter of J. P. Bowers, a jailer at Hampton, S. C., held a mob at bay at the point of a pistol and probably was responsible for saving the life of David Richards, a negro, was brought here today. The mob had followed Richards from Estill, where he was captured, to Hampton Saturday night. When the crowd appeared at the jail the girl forbade entrance and backed her statements with the pistol. Fearing she might be injured, her brother took the weapon from her. The mob immediately got the negro, but Jailer Bowers arrived on the scene and pleaded for the prisoner's life. The negro was taken to a forest and severely beaten, but will recover. Richards is charged with assaulting a white man.



From

Address: Harford, Conn.

Date: JAN 11 1917

# GOVERNOR DEFIES MOB IN KENTUCKY.

Stanley Rushes to Murray  
to Protect Judge and  
Prosecutor.

## LYNCHING THREATS AGAINST THE COURT

Citizens Are Angered by  
Postponement of Negro  
Homicide's Trial.

Murray, Ky., January 11.—In line with his announced intention to give the mob "a chance to lynch the governor of Kentucky first," Governor A. O. Stanley arrived here today and took charge of the situation growing out of the threats made yesterday by a mob against the lives of Circuit Judge Charles Bush and Commonwealth's Attorney Denny Smith.

The special train on which Governor Stanley arrived was left standing with steam up ready to take the judge and prosecutor from Murray if further demonstrations were made against their lives.

Open threats were made on the streets that any attempt to remove Judge Bush from Murray or to prevent the prompt trial of Lube Martin, a negro, charged with killing Guthrie Diuguid, a white man, would place the governor's own life in danger.

It was because of a continuance granted yesterday by Judge Bush in the case of Martin that the anger of the mob was aroused. Immediately after the continuance was ordered Martin was spirited out of Murray and taken to Paducah for safe keeping.

### Guard for the Court.

Judge Bush and Attorney Smith spent the night at a hotel guarded from the mob by a heavy force of deputies. The fact that a continuance had been granted was kept secret for a time, and then publicly announced by Judge Bush who stat-

ed that Martin would be tried next month. Howls and jeers from the crowd gathered in the court room greeted this statement.

The mob called for the prisoner and when he was not produced it was demanded that the judge surrender himself in place of the accused man. Attempts at explanation from the bench were howled down while leaders of the mob demanded that the negro be returned to the court room and placed on trial. Court officials then explained that Martin had been taken away, and could not be returned before this morning.

This further aroused the ire of the mob, which demanded that the judge order the return of the negro, declaring in event of failure to comply with their demand, their intention to lynch him together with the commonwealth's attorney or to dynamite the hotel at which they were staying.

Governor Stanley was informed of the situation here and left Frankfort on the first available train, bringing with him Judge H. B. Hines, chairman of the state prison commission, and Warden J. B. Chilton of the Eddyville penitentiary.

### Promise of Prompt Trial.

Ill feeling against the negro, Martin, has been keen in Calloway county since the shooting of Diuguid several weeks ago. Immediately following the shooting Martin was taken to Hopkinsville for safe keeping. When he was brought back here for preliminary hearing it was announced in order to forestall possible mob violence that he would be promptly tried upon the convening of the circuit court.

Martin was brought back to Murray Tuesday from Hopkinsville, where he had been held since his preliminary hearing. Because it was feared an effort might be made to lynch him, he was held all night under a heavy guard of deputy sheriffs in the court house. Long before the negro was brought into the courtroom, every available space was filled and spectators crowded corridors and vestibules. J. T. Holt, appointed by the court as counsel for Martin, asked for a continuance in order that the evidence in the case might be more fully developed.

This was granted and the negro smuggled from the court room and out of Murray before those present were aware of what was happening.

### Absence of State Troops.

With almost every available man of the Kentucky National Guard mobilized on the Mexican border, the governor was forced to rely today on those forces he could summon to his aid after his arrival here for the maintenance of order.

His first move in Murray was to deputize seventy-five citizens and

order them to prevent at all costs any outbreak. His next was to make an address to the crowd which filled the court room when court convened.

For more than a half hour Governor Stanley explained his purpose in coming to Murray and affirmed his determination to prevent an outbreak at any cost to himself or others.

"A little more than a year ago," he said I put my right hand on a Bible and called to God to witness that as chief magistrate of Kentucky and supporter of the law I would maintain its integrity. I have come here to-day to plead with you to allow the law to take its orderly course and to declare that I am here to uphold the law and to protect this court with my own body if necessary."

Governor Stanley's address was apparently well received, except by a few persons in the rear of the court room who set up a cry of, "Bring in the negro now; try the negro now; don't wait."

After Governor Stanley had concluded his address it was announced that the time and place for the trial of Martin would be made public later. The greater part of the crowd which had filled the court room then filed out in an orderly manner.

The tension which has existed here for the last twenty-four hours appears to have been considerably relieved by the governor's efforts.

### Governor Determined.

Paducah, Ky., January 11.—Lube Martin, a negro charged with killing Guthrie Diuguid, a white man, who was brought here from Murray for safe keeping, will remain until his return is ordered by Governor A. O. Stanley.

"I am governor of Kentucky and that negro will be taken back to Murray when I say so and not before," said Governor Stanley, when he stopped here early to-day on his way to Murray.

He was told on his arrival here that the return of the negro had been ordered by Judge Bush after threats had been made against the lives of Judge Bush and Commonwealth's Attorney Denny Smith by a Murray mob, upon Martin was taken there for trial to-day.

### A MIDNIGHT COURT STOPS THE LYNCHING OF TWO NEGROES.

Facing an angry mob at the entrance to the Charlottesville jail, Judge A. D. Dabney, of the Charlottesville Corporation Court, formally opened court at 1 o'clock this morning and ordered the unlawful assemblage dispersed. Reluctantly the huge crowd of men, many with handkerchiefs as masks, backed away from the jail, which for three hours had been besieged by the throng bent upon wrecking summary vengeance upon two alleged Negro murderers. Only the presence of the Monticello Guards, fully armed; the Charlottesville Fire Department and city police prevented the men from forcing their way into the jail.

The mob, which had been increasing instead of growing smaller, was edging slowly to the doors of the prison, which was surrounded by more than 100 armed guards. Shots had already been fired in the air to warn against coming nearer, but still the men crowded forward. Only a leader was needed to start the rush which would have overwhelmed the guard. Without notice, Judge Dabney stepped out of the jail, and, calling for silence, announced that court was in session.

### SWORN OFFICERS MOVE THROUGH MOB GETTING NAMES.

"The first man that creates further disorder will be put in jail," sternly admonished the judge "I warn you that sworn officers are now moving among you for the purpose of getting names. I, therefore, call upon you to disperse immediately."

Slowly the mob separated into groups and the groups separated into slinking individuals, and within less than an hour the street in front of the jail was quiet. Armed sentries were placed for several blocks around the building, and no person without definite business will be permitted within the described zone.

While Judge Dabney was making his vigorous appeal to the crowd Mayor E. G. Haden for the third time was in telephone communication with Adjutant-General W. W. Sale. He stated that the situation was growing serious and more assistance would be needed.

### Richmond Planet

### STAUNTON COMPANIES ARE ORDERED ON DUTY.

Two companies of the First Virginia Infantry were ordered from Staunton to re-enforce the Charlottesville company in preventing the mob from attacking the jail. The Adjutant-General issued the order to the Staunton companies at 1 o'clock this morning, after Mayor Haden had informed him that the Monticello Guards, the Charlottesville Fire Department, police and jail officials were not sufficient to preserve order.

Hamilton Crosby and Robert Jones were the men threatened with lynching. The Negroes are accused of having murdered Policeman Meredith A. Thomas, of Charlottesville, when caught in the act of robbing a store. The men were captured after a chase, in which bloodhounds were used to good advantage, and were brought to the Henrico County Jail, in Richmond, for safekeeping. In custody of Sheriff Webb W. Sydnor, the men were taken from Richmond to Charlottesville yesterday morning at 10 o'clock to be arraigned this morning on the charge of murder.

### MONTICELLO GUARDS MAKE QUICK RECORD.

The mob, according to information

from Charlottesville, started to gather at 9 o'clock. It was composed exclusively of white men, and violent threats were made. Mayor Haden quietly got in touch with Captain Herman Johnson, of the Monticello Guards, and acting under provisions of the Code of Virginia, ordered him to assemble his men and march them to the city and county jail to assist the civil authorities. In the surprisingly short time of thirty minutes Captain Johnson and forty men had responded to the summons. Adjutant-General Sale received notice of the Mayor's action at 10:30 o'clock and immediately got in touch with him. After a second telephone talk the two Staunton companies were ordered to proceed to Charlottesville.

"Neither the Governor nor myself had received notice that the Negroes were to be tried," General Sale stated early this morning. "Consequently we had not taken any precautions to prevent trouble. In fact, we had not been notified that any was expected. As soon as the gravity of the situation was made known to us, I ordered the two companies from Staunton to re-enforce the one at Charlottesville, and they will remain on duty until after the men have been tried and removed to another point for safekeeping."

### MAYOR HADEN SAYS ALL DANGER HAS PASSED.

Mayor Haden, in a talk with The Times-Dispatch early this morning, said that the danger had passed, he thought. The crowd, he said, was made up mostly of young college men, and after the stirring remarks by Judge Dabney, the men dispersed. The crowd had penetrated to within fifty yards of the jail door, and one shot was fired by the police to warn the men from approaching nearer. The arrival of the military probably prevented a clash at that time.

The mob was variously estimated at from 800 to 1,000. It formed on East Main Street about 9 o'clock. Mayor Haden, notified promptly of the trouble, had the fire bell rung. The mob moved toward the entrance of the city jail, many of them with handkerchiefs tied across their faces. There they were met by the drawn bayonets of the Monticello Guard, which had been put on guard at the jail while the crowd was assembling.

### JUDGE DABNEY AND MAYOR HADEN APPEAL TO MOB.

Judge Dabney made a vigorous address cautioning against any violence. When he told the mob that sworn officers were already mowing among them for the purpose of getting the names of those making threats the effect was instantaneous. The crowd at once began to scatter, and by 1 o'clock the street in front of the jail was practically cleared. Shortly after that hour the Adjutant-General



was notified that additional troops would be unnecessary.

Mayor E. G. Haden also addressed the crowd, assuring them that justice would be done and begging the assembly to let the law take its course.

"If the mob had had a leader," said Mayor Haden, after the mob had been cleared from the streets after 1 o'clock. "I believe that their efforts would have been successful. It was only Judge Dabney's cool action in calling court and addressing the crowd, and the presence of a strong armed guard that prevented violence."

#### ACCUSED NEGROES TO BE TRIED TODAY.

The accused Negroes were brought to Charlottesville at noon yesterday and their trials set for today, the first to begin at 10 o'clock this morning. The court proceedings moved so swiftly yesterday that any thought of lynching was thought to be out of question. As it turned out, however, the presence of the military company was probably all that saved the Negroes.

The summoning of State troops to prevent disorder, without a formal to the Governor, is almost unprecedented in Virginia. Section 368 of the Code however, gives Mayors and sheriffs this privilege.

The summons to Captain Johnson, of the Monticello Guards, was as follows:

"Whereas, it has been made to appear to me, E. G. Haden, Mayor of the city of Charlottesville, that there is now danger of unlawful mob violence to prisoners in custody of the law, and that military force is necessary to aid civil authority in suppressing the same;

"Now, therefore, I command you that you cause your command, armed and equipped with ammunition, and with proper officers, to parade at once to the city jail, then and there to obey such orders as may be given according to law. Hereof fail not at your peril, and have you there this summons, with your doings returned thereon."

#### REMOVAL OF NEGRO PREVENTS LYNCHING

*Advertiser 5-9-17*  
(Associated Press.)

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 8.—Stirred by a confession alleged to have been made by L. C. Persons, negro wood chopper accused of the murder of Ann Nettie Rappal, a school girl near this city last week, several hundred men came to Memphis late today from the vicinity of the girl's home and gathered about the county jail but dispersed when leaders were convinced that the negro had been removed to the penitentiary at Nashville.

Persons, according to a statement made by the sheriff confessed that he killed and beheaded the girl, whose mutilated body was found in a thicket near her home last Wednesday. An indictment formally charging Persons with murder was returned by the grand jury this afternoon.

# GOVERNOR DISPERSES

## *leigh independent* MOB

### *9/23/17* Saves Life of Earle Neville, Rapist

#### Will Call Special Term of Court to Try Prisoner

#### Advances in face of Threats Pleads for Law and Order

A would be lynching was averted here early Friday morning when Governor T. W. Bickett in an earnest fervid appeal broke up a mob of 200 or more men who had gathered to storm Wake County jail in search for Earle Neville, colored, accused rapist. The crime of which Neville is accused was committed Wednesday night about eleven o'clock at 204 Brooklyn, St. He is accused of entering the home of Mrs. Celey, white, through a window and robbing and assaulting her. He was arrested early Thursday morning on his back at Union depot.

The attack on the jail began about one o'clock Friday morning and seems to have been well arranged. Part of the party wore mask but the majority were unmasked. No attempt was made to conceal their purpose. A crowd of onlookers had gathered to see the thing through. They were warned to stand back by the mob. Several shots were fired as a warning. The police soon found that they were unable to cope with the situation and Governor Bickett was notified.

Meanwhile the mob finding it could make no headway against any of the doors of the jail got into automobiles and went away. Some thought they had seized the prisoner but later it was found that they had gone to find the sheriff to secure the keys from him.

When the mob returned Governor Bickett had reached the scene. In an appeal for law and order, promising to call a special term of court to try the accused and finally promising not to prosecute any members of the mob, the Governor persuaded them to disperse.

#### MOB OF WOMEN FOILED

#### In Attempted Lynching.

Special to The Freeman.

WHITE CITY, La., March 31.—White women, led by a white-haired grandmother, were in a mob which early today attempted to lynch Joe Rout, a colored man charged with the murder of Simon Bennett, a planter. Officers and guards placed about the jail where Rout is confined held the mob at bay. "Cowards, cowards," shrieked the women when the men in the mob, awed by the display of the officers' weapons, turned to leave.

From

Address: *COLUMBIA, S.C.*

Date: *JAN 23 1917*

#### GIRL HOLDS MOB AT PISTOL POINT

#### But Intruders Get Prisoner From Her Brother, Jailer at Hampton.

Dave Richards, a negro who narrowly escaped lynching in and near Hampton Saturday night, was brought to Columbia Sunday night by Sheriff J. Herman Lightsey and a deputy and placed in the penitentiary for safekeeping. People from Hampton county who were in Columbia yesterday said Richards had been commissioned a marshal by the mayor of Estill, where the trouble originated. He attempted to arrest a man in a store run by Marvin O'Neil at Estill. A clerk in the store by the name of Glover, so accounts obtainable here indicate, prevented the negro marshal from making the arrest, and the negro drew a gun on Glover. The negro was arrested and taken to the jail in Estill, but the mayor feared for his safety and sent him to Hampton to the county jail in the custody of two constables.

The negro was delivered to J. P. Bowers, jailer, and one of the constables went back downstairs to get the negro's hat, which had been dropped. When he opened the door about 35 men rushed in, but they were met by the jailer's 14 year old daughter, armed with one of her father's revolvers. She succeeded in driving off the mob until her brother arrived and took her place. Hardly had he gotten the revolver before the mob rushed him, overpowered the jailer and took the negro and fled with him in automobiles in the direction of Estill.

The young woman called Sheriff Lightsey on the telephone. By the time the sheriff arrived the would be lynchers had disappeared with the negro, and he could obtain no trace of either. Sunday the negro was found at another negro's house, a few miles from Hampton. He had been pretty badly beaten. It is thought that lynching was prevented by the fact that members of the mob were recognized by citizens in Hampton and because the jailer had pleaded with them not to lynch the prisoner. The negro says that he did not know any of the members of the party.

#### VIRGINIA NEGRO VIRTUALLY CONFESSES GUILT OF CRIME

(Associated Press.)  
RICHMOND, VA., Aug. 27.—William H. Burgess, the negro arrested at Fairfax County in a plot to kidnap and tacking two white women, and who was brought to the Henrico County jail here late last night from Alexandria because of fears of lynching, has written to his brother bidding her farewell. The police said they looked upon the letter as a virtual confession of his guilt.  
Burgess was guarded by State troops during the trip here and he is being closely watched today by jailers.

#### CLARKE NEGRO SAVED FROM FURY OF A MOB

#### Charged With Attempted Assault, He Is Rushed to Athens as Crowd Gathers

Athens, Ga., August 4.—(Special.)—Winterville, ten miles from Athens, in Clarke county, was the scene of a near lynching this morning when Ed Dean, a negro living in the edge of Clarke, was haled before a justice of the peace for preliminary hearing, charged with attempt at serious offenses. Excited and angry crowds gathered, but officers by clever work slipped the negro away from the place of trial and hurried him to Athens by auto, to be confined in the third-story prison of the county.

Just before day this morning a young lady living on the Winterville-Lexington road, sleeping in the second story of the old colonial country home of her parents, was awakened by the impression of a presence in her room. As she opened her eyes the negro climbed through the open window, having mounted with a ladder. She screamed and the man went out of the window. In his haste he slipped from the ladder and fell to the ground, twenty feet below. The father, aroused, seized a gun and pursued the negro, firing several times at him. The fall had badly crippled one ankle, and the negro barely got to a nearby swamp to hide, being later taken and carried to Winterville for trial.

#### Negro Held For Killing Mrs. Palmer

*Advertiser 7/5/17*  
(Associated Press.)

TAMPA, FLA., July 4.—Will Miles, negro, will be tried Saturday or Monday at Bradentown for the murder of Mrs. W. S. Palmer, of Palmetto, on April 20. Judge O. K. Reeves announced today. Indictment was found at Bradentown by the grand jury yesterday. The Palmer murder being chosen for the trial instead of the assault, which resulted in the death of the 13-year-old girl, who was the victim.

Two Tampa companies of National Guard are under arms and are expected to go to Jacksonville where Miles is being held to guard the defendant on the train and at the trial in Manatee county.



Lynchings - 1917  
Prevented. 311  
Democrat

From YORK, PA. From  
Address: Address:  
Date: Date:

KINGSTON, N. Y.  
JAN 2 4 1917

From: *Kingsker, C.*  
Address: *Kingsker, C.*  
Date: JAN 2 5 1917

## Officers Stand Off Mob Of 200; Lynching Foiled

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 24.—Deputy sheriffs and the police today repelled a mob of 200 determined men who twice stormed the county jail in an effort to lynch two negroes who confessed to the murder of Walter Houser, a white man. The ring leader of the mob was arrested.

From REPUBLICAN

Address: Springfield, Mass.  
Date: MAR 3 0 1917

**WOMAN PREVENTS LYNCHING**  
Mrs. Lena Taylor, daughter of Sheriff Davidson of Gibson county, Tenn., yesterday prevented a mob from gaining entrance to the cell of a Negro at Trenton, charged with abducting a white girl. While her father debated with the leaders she secured the cell keys and slipped away through the crowd.

**MOB SEARCHES FOR A NEGRO MURDERER**  
*Advertiser*  
(Associated Press)  
MEMPHIS, TENN., May 16.—Poses of police and sheriff's deputies left here tonight to investigate reports that a mob, which had assembled a short distance from this city in the belief that Ell Persons, a negro was to be returned from Nashville to Memphis tonight for trial for murder, was preventing M. G. Tate, sheriff, and three of his deputies from returning to this city.

Up to a late hour the poses had not reported but it was intimated at the sheriff's office that information had been received indicating that the sheriff and his deputies were safe. No information as to their whereabouts was made public.  
Tate, returning from Nashville today, was met at Arlington, a suburb of this city, by a crowd of a hundred or more men. After searching the train and failing to find the negro, who alleged to have confessed to the killing of Antoinette Rappal, a school girl, some of the party are said to have followed the sheriff and his deputies in their journey through the country until after nightfall.  
It was said tonight that the negro still was in Nashville, where he was taken last week for safe keeping.

## LYNCHING MOB DISPERSED West Virginians Accept Promise of Quick Murder Trial

By Telegraph.  
Clay, W. Va., Jan. 19.—A mob of more than 150 armed men appeared at the Clay county jail here early today and demanded Andrew and Howard Sampson, who were confined there, charged with murdering Preston Tanner and burning his home. The turnkey who had the keys could not be found and the mob fired into the jail, but no one was wounded. A number of citizens, including lawyers and clergymen, addressed the mob and pleaded with them not to lynch the men. On the promise of the lawyers that a special term of court would be called and the prisoners given a speedy trial the mob dispersed. The Sampsons will be taken to Sutton or Charleston while arrangements for the trial are being made.

WACO TEXAS TIMES HERALD  
AUGUST 22, 1917

## Negro Brought Here For Safe Keeping Returns to Marlin

Sheriff C. H. Plott of Falls county was here this morning, coming to Waco to take back with him a negro, Walter Cook, rushed to Waco last Saturday afternoon, following the stabbing in the downtown section of Marlin of Jim Smith, prominent Falls county planter. It is understood the negro will soon have his preliminary hearing.  
Mr. Smith is still in a critical condition, in a Marlin sanitarium. He was virtually disemboweled.  
Sheriff Plott is of the opinion that the feeling against the negro has decreased to the extent where he can be taken back to Marlin with safety.

V V C SON  
SEPTEMBER 21, 1917  
**MOB TRIES TO LYNCH NEGRO.**  
Storms Raleigh Jail—Quelled by Governor's Words.

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 21.—A mob of several hundred men attacked the jail here early today in an attempt to lynch a negro named Neville, accused of attacking the wife of a street car conductor. Before the jail doors gave way Gov. Bickett and Adjt.-Gen. Young arrived.  
While the Governor addressed a portion of the mob a masked leader was urging the greater portion to batter down the jail doors. Fifteen shots were fired before the State officials arrived but apparently no one was injured.

## Would-be Lynchers Repelled. By Telegraph to The Freeman.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 24.—Deputy sheriffs and police early today repelled a mob of 200 determined men who twice stormed the county jail in an effort to lynch two negroes who confessed the killing of Walter Houser, a white butcher. One man believed to be the ringleader of the mob, was arrested. Word reached police headquarters that another mob would make another attempt and a strong force of deputies guarding the jail.

## ORDER HOME GUARD TO PROTECT NEGRO

RALEIGH, N. C., Monday.—The Raleigh Home Guard, a newly organized military company, made up principally of professional and business men, has been ordered out by Governor Bickett, to protect Earl Neville, a negro, who went on trial today. Two unsuccessful attempts were made by mobs two weeks ago to take the negro from the county jail for the avowed purpose of lynching him.

## SHERIFF GETS NEGRO AT NASHVILLE JAIL

*Advertiser*  
(Associated Press.)  
NASHVILLE, TENN., May 16.—Ell Persons, the negro murderer from Memphis, who has been in jail here since the crime was committed, was taken from the jail here tonight, and, it is said, he is being kept in hiding in the country. No trace of the negro can be found. Sheriff Wright and two of his deputies are said to be with the prisoner. All efforts to locate these officers have failed. There is a rumor here to the effect that members of the mob came to Nashville armed with an order from the sheriff of Shelby county, and secured the negro and lynched him. This is denied by the night jailer, who insists that the Shelby county sheriff took the negro out of the city early tonight. Other officials at the jail say the negro is in the keeping of the Davidson county sheriff.

## MOB ATTACKS JAIL, BUT FAILS TO GET MEN

*Advertiser*  
Clay, W. Va., January 19.—A mob of more than 150 armed men appeared at the Clay county jail here early today, and demanded Andrew and Howard Sampson, charged with murdering Preston Tanner and burning his home. The turnkey could not be found and the mob fired into the jail but no one was wounded.  
Citizens addressed the mob, and pleaded with them not to lynch the men. On the promise of the lawyers that a special term of court would be called for a speedy trial the mob dispersed.  
Sampsons will be taken to Sutton or Charleston temporarily.

## NEGRO WHO SHOT YOUNG GIVEN YEAR SENTENCE

*Advertiser*  
Macon, Ga., January 17.—(Special.)—Will Jackson, Jr., a negro, was found guilty of shooting another, in superior court today, and sentenced to serve a year on the chain gang. The negro shot at J. W. Young, a white farmer, who lives in the Lizella district, several months ago, and was brought to Macon for safekeeping, it being feared he might be lynched.



ARGYLE SCOTT, EIGHT YEARS OLD HAS REVOLTING EXPERIENCE. ACCUSES WHITE PHYSICIAN OF CRIMINALLY ASSAULTING HER IN DRUG STORE. CHILD GIVES STRAIGHTFORWARD DESCRIPTION OF WHAT OCCURRED AND STICKS TO HER STORY. MAN IS ARRESTED AND BAILED IN SUM OF \$1000.00

*Journal & Guide*  
At the hearing of the case in the Police Court Friday morning Dr. Strole was held for the Grand jury by Justice Pitt. Attorneys J. S. Barron and W. H. Land conducted the prosecution.

Upon a warrant sworn out by Mrs. Maggie Scott, who resides at 711 Goff Street, Dr. William A. Strole, white, was arrested late Monday afternoon upon the charge of having criminally assaulted eight year old Argyle Scott, daughter of the complainant.

Dr. Strole was admitted to bail in the sum of \$1000 by Judge Hanckel of the Corporation Court, and at the hearing in Police Court Tuesday the case was continued to Friday, December 7th.

#### Little Girl's Description of Assault

According to the facts as related in a straightforward statement by little Argyle the attack occurred in Strole's Drug Store, at the southeast corner of Church Street and Princess Anne Avenue, Sunday between 11:30 and 1:00 o'clock. To a representative of The Journal and Guide she detailed the story of her awful experience in substantially the same words used in telling her mother and Attorney James S. Barron, who has been retained to prosecute the case, of the revolting affair.

#### Sent To Purchase Postage Stamps

She was sent to the drug store, she said, to purchase postage stamps. There was no one in the store at the time except the man who committed the outrage upon her.

According to Argyle's description of the affair he placed his hands upon her shoulder and pushed her gently behind the prescription counter, where after looking in a drawer he told her that he had no stamps, but that "he was going to do something to her, and that if she told anyone he would kill her."

#### Said He was Fortune Teller

"I am a fortune teller," Argyle said the man told her, "and if you tell anybody I will know it." She said he then placed her on a reclining chair and got up on the chair with her.

#### Interrupted By Customer

At this stage the tragedy was interrupted for a minute by a customer who came in the store. Her assailant stopped long enough to go out in front and wait upon the customer and then re-

turned and finished the act that he had started. The remainder of Argyle's description of what occurred and what Strole told her is unprintable.

#### Afraid To Tell Her Mother

Dazed and frightened beyond description by her horrible experience the child went home, but remembering, he said, the "fortune teller's" threat to kill her was afraid to tell even her mother what had occurred. All day he kept her treatment concealed, but on Monday morning instead of going to school went to the home of an older sister who lives a mile or so beyond the city limits and told her of her experience. Her sister lived so far from the drug store, Argyle said, that she did not think knowledge of her telling of the affair could get back to the man. Her sister immediately told her mother and father of what had happened to Argyle the day before and Strole's arrest followed.

#### WHITE MAN GETS LIFE TERM FOR BRUTAL CRIME

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)  
FORT MYERS, Fla.—Cecil Dupont, a young white man, has been sentenced to a life term in the State Penitentiary at Raiford, having been found guilty of criminally assaulting an eleven-year-old colored girl, by a jury of white men in the Lee County Circuit Court.

Only one ballot was taken, the jurors, after being out an hour returning a verdict finding the defendant guilty of the serious charge. A recommendation of mercy was made, as eight of the jurors were opposed to Dupont dying on the gallows.

Judge Edwards told the defendant to stand up, and upon being asked if he had anything to say why the law should not be pronounced against him, replied that he did not. He was then sentenced to the State Penitentiary for the rest of his life.

Still frail and weak from the brutal assault made upon her by Dupont, the 11-year-old girl related how she broke away from Dupont, of how she became his victim and became unconscious. Dr. Hunter, a white physician, and Dr. Butler, a colored physician, declared the act had been committed.

L. D. McCormick told of the girl's brother having appealed to him to save his sister from a white man who was killing her; of his going into the wood for about a mile with the boy, and of seeing Dupont getting up from the ground.

## Greek Attempts Assault on Nine-Year-Old Daughter of Army Officer Tuesday

*The Montgomery Advertiser*  
Girl Screams and Fight

Back Frightening Man

A Vasiliades, a Greek, proprietor of a fruit stand at the corner of Dexter avenue and Decatur street, Tuesday afternoon attempted an assault upon the nine year old daughter of a lieutenant in the dental corps stationed at Camp Sheridan, and was only prevented in carrying out his purpose, by the little girl fighting and screaming for help, the Greek becoming frightened and letting the girl go. Vasiliades was later arrested by detectives Avant and Brinson and carried to the city prison.

#### Greek in County Jail

The first warrant against Vasiliades was issued in the police headquarters and was sworn out by the father of the child. The warrant there however was not sufficient and a State warrant for assault with intent to rape, was issued from the Court of Common pleas against the Greek.

Vasiliades was removed from the police headquarters to the county jail. A reporter of The Advertiser was denied the right of interviewing Vasiliades by night jailor Fleet Huggins, the latter saying he could see the prisoner Wednesday morning.

A reporter from The Advertiser visited the home of the child on Monroe street, shortly after the occurrence and the mother made the following statement concerning the affair. "The assault made by the Greek has almost broken my heart, and we have been so upset about the affair that I can hardly speak. It is so terrible, and I feel so hurt about the affair. Monday afternoon my child visited the fruit stand operated by the Greek, and the latter made an attempt to fondle the girl. Being so young, she paid no attention to the Greek, and the latter kissed her several times. The little girl thinking nothing about the conduct of the Greek, failed to report it to us. On this afternoon she had two pennies and said she was going to the fruit stand to buy some candy. While in the place operated by the Greek, he again began to play with the child and later called to her to come behind the counter saying, she could have anything she wanted.

#### Lured Girl Into Store

The girl hesitated at first, but the Greek insisted and when the child went behind the counter, the Greek grabbed her and commenced to hug her and kissed her several times. The child started to pull away from the Greek, and it was then he tried to make the child be quiet and even tried to pull her on his lap, but the girl started to scream and called for help and at this, the Greek let her go.

When she came back to the house, she was crying and told me that the fruit stand man had hugged and

kissed her. At first I started to get a revolver and go and kill the Greek, but on a second thought I decided to telephone the police station, and did so, and a short time later, the officer arrived, and made the arrest.

#### Native of Greece

Vasiliades when carried to the police station and arraigned before Sergeant W. H. Centerfit, tried to evade the answers of the official by claiming that he could not understand the English language. From the best information obtained from the Greek he gave his age at 53, was a native of Greece. No bond was allowed by the authorities, and it is most likely that Vasiliades will be held in the Montgomery county jail, until given a preliminary hearing.

## RESPECTABLE WOMAN IS ATTACKED BY WHITE MAN

Editor of Ohio Daily Newspaper Meets Resistance—Warrant Refused Woman's Husband, Who Gets No Redress For Outrage

#### CHICAGO DEFENDER NEWS SERVICE

Gallipolis, Ohio, April 27.—On Saturday, March 31, Mrs. Isaac Gillespie, a respectable wife, was accosted by Mr. Sibley (white), editor of the Gallipolis Tribune, a local daily, who enticed her to his home under pretext of having work for her to do. Arriving there, he put his arms around her and attempted other familiarities, but met with such resistance that he was glad to turn his intended victim loose. Mrs. Gillespie's husband made several attempts at different offices to get a warrant for the fiend, but met with excuses and flat refusals at all, including the mayor's office. The city prosecutor advised him to go to the mayor's office, where it was claimed that it was a case for a justice court, and the city solicitor said there that he was Sibley's attorney and after defeating Gillespie's efforts to get a warrant at the mayor's office, followed him to the justice court and advised against the issuing of a warrant there. Mr. Kearns declared that Mrs. Gillespie would have to come there and display bruises, etc., and demanded that money be deposited to cover the costs of the case—and this a felony charge. As a result there has been no way in which this white libertine can be reached made possible. It is easy to guess, however, what would have happened here if conditions were reversed and it had been Sibley's wife who had been attacked. This man should be brought to justice if there is any law in the state of Ohio and Mr. Gillespie should leave no stone unturned to secure it, even if he has to demand justice through the governor of the state's office. Our women must be protected.

The world does move. It isn't a tale of lynching that comes from Arkansas to-day. No sheriff was overpowered, no jail was broken into and no frightened and trembling negro was taken out of his cell and hung to the nearest tree. On the contrary a white youth of Texarkana, accused of attacking a negro girl, was sentenced to 99 years in State's prison.

## NEGRO DID NOT ASSAULT CHILD

Post-Dispatch Report that Four-Year-Old Girl Was Attacked by Negro Was False. Argus Makes Investigation and Finds Police Tried to Fasten Crime on Negro. Children Say "White Man Did It"

On Thursday, May 17, there appeared in the Post-Dispatch a statement that a four year old girl had been attacked by a Negro and left unconscious in a barn at 4411 Louisiana Ave. The child proved to be little Flora Morgener, 4300 Oregon Ave. At the same time there appeared in the Globe Democrat a statement that an unidentified man had made the attack.

An Argus reporter was sent out to make an investigation of the case. He found that the child had been most brutally assaulted and the parents of the child stated that each of the children said that a white man made the attack. They also stated that the police had used every effort to fasten the crime upon a Negro, but the children, every time said that it was a white man.

Further investigation shows according to the police report, that a Colored man had been seen in the vicinity of the crime by two girls in the afternoon.

There seemed to be no ground for the statement as it appeared in the Post-Dispatch only to fabricate enough to make the public believe that only Negroes commit such crimes. Of course, the police come in for their share in creating the wrong impression when a crime is committed. It seems that the first thought that comes in their minds is that some Negro is the guilty party. And while spending their time looking for "The Negro" the real offender makes good his escape.



# WHITE MAN FINED \$25 FOR BURGLARY AND CRIMINAL ASSAULT UPON COLORED WOMAN

*Independent*  
9-18-13  
Reuben Bailey, the young white man who sometime ago broke into the home of Mrs. Cora Winstead, a colored woman, and criminally assaulted her in the presence of her two children was released **without trial** Wake County Superior Court yesterday upon the payment of a fine of \$25 and giving \$100 bond for good behavior. Bailey pleaded guilty to the charge of housebreaking and the State took a nol-pross in the criminal assault case.

The assault was committed some weeks ago and in our issue of August 25th. we called attention to the fact Mrs. Winstead, into whose house Baily entered and against whom the crime was committed, was a woman of good repute among her neighbors both white and colored."

There has evidently been a gross miscarriage of justice. Give us a "square deal" before the law.



# Lynchings - 1917

## Reports on, Sent Press

### LYNCHINGS DECREASE; HORRORS GROW.

TACOMA WASH NEWS

JULY 21, 1917

The report of Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape. The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder; fermenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road, and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

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The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road, and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder; fermenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road, and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

ARMINGHAM ALABAMA HERALD

DECEMBER 30, 1917

Tuskegee, December 29—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched during 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; criminal assault, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officers of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one. The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, five; rape, six; murder, three; killing of-

Soat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

NEW JERSEY CITY N J JOURNAL

JANUARY 2, 1918

LYNCHING RECORDS FOR 1917.

Editor Jersey Journal:

Dear Sir:—I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Yours very truly,

Robert R. Moton.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31, 1917.

Lynching record for 1917.

Editor Buffalo Express:—I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, five; rape, six; murder, three; killing of-

officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering woman's room, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing a man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

R. R. MOTON, Principal

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31st.

Lynching Shows a Big Decline

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 1.

Writing in regard to lynchings in this country, Principal Moton of Tuskegee, writes: "I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 Negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,

"ROBT. R. MOTON, Principal."

YONKERS N Y HERALD

JULY 5, 1917

Tuskegee Principal on Lynchings.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, July 1. To the Editor of the Yonkers Herald:



I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first 6 months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and 1 white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal

## 36 Lynched in 1917, Says Tuskegee Report 36 Were Negroes—One Female Hanged, Says R. R. Moton.

Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, the college for negroes organized by the late Booker T. Washington, has issued his yearly report on the lynching record for 1917.

There were 36 persons lynched in 1917, he says, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. The offenses charged against the whites were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking woman, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 6; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

WORCESTER MASS GAZETTE  
JULY 5, 1917

### LYNCHING RECORDS FOR 1917

Editor Holyoke Telegram:

Sir:—I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 36 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 6; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. MOTON, Principal.  
Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29,

### WYOMING, PA. RECORD

JULY 3, 1917

Accelerating Negro Migration to the North.

Editor of The Record:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July, 1917.

### WONKERS' N

JULY 9, 1917

### ATESMAN

## LYNCHINGS.

According to records kept at the Tuskegee Institute, there were 14 lynchings during the first six months of the year. This is 11 under the first six months last year and 20 under the same period of 1915. In 10 instances lynchings were prevented by officers of the law.

In discussing the statistics, Principal Robert R. Moton, of the Institute, says that it appears that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of mob violence the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased the fear of lynching among Negroes and accelerated their migration to the North.

With the outbreak of mob violence at East St. Louis as a start, remarks the Utica Herald-Dispatch, the lynching record for the latter half of the year is a ready blacker than that of the first months.

### BOSTON MASS POST

JANUARY 8, 1918

## A STILL BETTER RECORD

The Tuskegee Institute lynching record which appears annually and may be considered as authoritative as any of the kind can be, shows that in 1917 a total of 36 persons were lynched, as compared with 54 in 1916, 67 in 1915 and 52 in 1914. As usual, most of the victims were negroes.

It is of interest to note that Cutler, in his book "Lynch Law," printed statistics covering the years 1882-1903 inclusive. The low record in that period was 97 lynchings in 1902, the total rising to 104 in 1903. In 1897 there were 165 lynchings, in 1893 there were 200 and in 1892 there were 235. The maximum number in all the years recorded since 1882. In the decade 1882-1891, inclusive, the maximum was reached in the year 1884, when 211 persons were lynched.

Taking everything together, it is very evident that the crime of lynching is steadily decreasing. The time is surely coming when these mob murders will be so rare as to give the Tuskegee statisticians no more work.

Accelerating Negro Migration to the North.

Editor of The Record:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through

the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July, 1917.

### THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

The Tuskegee Institute, Ala., records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee, Ala., Institute, Monroe, N. Work in charge, show that there were 36 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negro-Americans and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one third of those put to death, were only charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against Afro-Americans were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running auto over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 6; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

### ALBANY N Y JOURNAL

JULY 3, 1917

## From Lynching to Massacre.

When news comes to us that in foreign countries human beings are slaughtered by other human beings frenzied by race hatred or religious fanaticism; when we read that Jews were butchered in the Russia that was and Christians in Armenia, our indignation has no bounds. Our deepest sympathy went out to the victims and we raged against their murderers. We deplore the helplessness of the rest of the world to prevent such atrocities.

Now we have such a bloody spec-

tales in the heart of our own country, in East St. Louis, a city of about 60,000 inhabitants. The horrible details are printed in the news columns. Human beings have been killed, their homes have been burned, and other property whose value is probably in the millions, has been destroyed. There is no definite information about the precipitating cause, but we know that the underlying cause is the hatred of human beings whose skins are white against human beings whose skins are black.

When this news reaches Russia, what will the Russians think of us? When it gets to Germany, where it will be made to appear even worse than it is, there will be gloating over what will be represented as civil war, and jeering at this nation's declaration that its fight is for democracy against autocracy, for the relief of human beings from tyranny, for the good of humanity.

We Americans know that such an incident is rare; that it arouses the indignation of the whole nation; that if the public could sit as judge the severest penalty would be imposed upon the members of the murderous mob of East St. Louis; but in some other lands it will be regarded as evidence of prevailing barbarism under a thin veneer of civilization in the United States.

We must believe that the authorities of East St. Louis have been remiss in the performance of their duty. This was not a sudden, unexpected outbreak. It was the culmination of previous disorders. Proper precautions would have averted from the country this disgrace at so critical a time.

Just before this outrage was perpetrated, Principal Moton of the Tuskegee Institute sent out a report of lynchings decreased in the first six months of this year, but added that the atrocious nature of the recent case near Memphis, where the victim was burned, had aggravated the fear of the Negroes and accelerated their migration to the North.

And now, in a northern state, Negroes are victims of massacre.

### LOUISVILLE KY. HERALD

JULY 3, 1917

TUSKEGEE, ALA., JULY 3.—There were eleven lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.



December 31, 1917.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's words, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. MOTON,

Principal.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 17

*Standard-Sentinel*  
Editor Standard-Sentinel

Dear Sir; I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Divisions of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1918.  
Reflections will be aroused by an examination of the country's lynching statistics for the year just closed. For some years past, accurate records on the subject have been kept by one of the departments of the famous Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Alabama, founded by the late Booker T. Washington, for the training of colored young men and women; and from this institution the figures are sent out to the press of the country at stated intervals, with a resume of the previous year's totals very soon after January 1.

The compilation for 1917 shows that in the United States no less than 38 persons were lynched, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites; 37 were males, and 1 female; 12, or a little less than one-third of the total number, were accused of assault upon women or attempted assault.

Of the two white persons lynched, one was charged with this offense and with murder, the other was charged with fomenting strikes. The offenses charged against the Negroes were: assault on women, 6; attempted assault, 5; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

Texas and Georgia led the list of states in which lynchings occurred, with 6 each; next in order were Louisiana with 5, and Alabama and Arkansas with 4 each; Tennessee came next with 3, Kentucky had 2, and there was 1 each in Florida, Mississippi, Virginia, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arizona, Montana and Wyoming. It will thus be seen that what is geographically called the North had no lynchings; the West (including Oklahoma) had 4; and the South (including Texas) had 34! It is a gory record, and it indicates that public sentiment in favor of law and order, as represented in the legal processes of the courts, is still far from being as strong in some sections of the country as it ought to be throughout a nation making such claims as the United States does to progress and civilization.

The lynching record for 1917, as tabulated by R. R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, shows that the thirty-eight persons known to have been murdered by lynching mobs resided in ten Southern Prohibition States, namely Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, the non-Prohibition States in which lynchings were perpetrated being Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas and Wyoming, while the only Northern Prohibition States where one negro was lynched was Montana.

Lynching is a peculiarly American institution. We have inherited it from the Indian. Formerly it prevailed throughout the country. Education and progress have done away with it in all really enlightened States. It retains its hold where the parson is still a dominant figure in keeping the masses ignorant, credulous, superstitious and brutal. And that is the reason why also Prohibition could be saddled upon the masses in the Southern and in some of the Western States. Lynchings occur there not because the people believe in Prohibition, but only because they are backward in civilization. Where the masses are still so ignorant and brutal that they will resort to murdering by mob law, they are also ignorant and brutal enough to make Prohibition laws, or permit them to be placed upon their statute books.

Enlighten the masses everywhere and lynching, Prohibition and all other brutalities will disappear from American soil. That they still exist is a disgrace to the United States, more so would it be a disgrace and a national disaster if the minority in the lynching and Prohibition States were to succeed in extending their brutality over the entire North American Republic.

### THIRTY-EIGHT LYNCHINGS SHOWN BY RECORDS

Thirty-six Negroes and Two  
White Men Victims of

Mob Violence.

CHATTANOOGA TENN NEWS  
DECEMBER 31, 1917

R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, makes the following report regarding the lynchings for the past year:

"The records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, show that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites; 37 were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

"The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

"The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1;

intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1."

PHILADELPHIA, PA. TIMES  
JULY 2, 1917

### FEWER LYNCHINGS

Only 14 in Last 6 Months Against  
25 in Same 1916 Period.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman, Robert Moton, principal at Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.



## NOTHING WORSE ANYWHERE.

**R**ICHARD R. MOTON has issued a report on the lynchings for the first six months of the year as compiled by the division of records and research of the Tuskegee institute.

The report shows fourteen lynchings during that period, eleven less than in the corresponding months of 1916 and twenty less than for the same months of 1915. Another gratifying feature of the report is the statement that through the heroism of officers and other means, ten lynchings were prevented. Of the fourteen lynched in the first half of the present year, thirteen were negroes.

The south is improving.

"The horror connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis," says Mr. Moton, "has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north."

That sentence was written before the horror at East St. Louis, Ills. The massacre at East St. Louis will doubtless convince the negroes that in fleeing from the south they fly to still more inhospitable country.

The south has never had an outrage to compare with the one that has just occurred on northern soil. The south has never killed and tortured negroes and burned their homes for willingness to work. Events will probably demonstrate that the south was never more lax in punishing outrages against negroes. There is no confidence that the perpetrators of the murder and incendiarism committed in Illinois will be adequately punished. The attitude of mind disclosed by the East St. Louis city officials and the chamber of commerce indicates the town is placing the blame everywhere but upon the criminals and is more eager in extenuation than in prosecution.

Americans must hang their heads in shame. The Boxers of China and the Jew-haters of darkest Russia have nothing worse to their credit. To make the shame eternal is the unlikelihood that adequate punishment will give Americans the right to raise their lowered heads in honor.

## NO CAUSE FOR CONGRATULATIONS.

The annual summary of lynchings for the year 1917 are out. The figures of the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute make the total number of lynchings for the year thirty-eight; thirty-six Negroes and two whites. The figures of the Chicago Tribune make the total number thirty-four; twenty-eight Negroes and six whites. The total number of lynchings for the year 1916 was fifty-eight; fifty Negroes and eight whites.

Apparently the year 1917 shows an improvement over 1916, a decrease of about twenty in the number of lynchings. But the improvement is only apparent. The figures given fail to take into consideration the East St. Louis riots, in which the number of victims is estimated at from two hundred to five hundred; and the East St. Louis riots were nothing less than a wholesale lynching.

But mere numbers do not tell the whole story. Counting the East St. Louis riots as lynchings, the year 1917 would show the maximum number of all the years since 1882; the highest previous record being for the year 1892, when two hundred and thirty-five lynchings were recorded. Moreover, the East St. Louis riots may be

left out, and the fact remains that the wantonness and savagery of the lynchings of the past year make up for any decrease there was in numbers. Taking the Tuskegee record, out of the thirty-six Negroes lynched there were only twelve cases in which the alleged crime was rape. Two were lynched for "not getting out of the road and for insolence"; two for "disputing a white man's word"; one for "vagrancy"; one for "stealing a coat"; one for writing "an insolent letter."

But there were two lynchings last year which alone would convict the United States of being a barbarous land; they were the lynchings of Eli Person at Memphis and Lignon Scott at Dyersburg, both in Tennessee. In each of these cases a human being was chained to an iron stake and burned alive in public before great crowds of so-called civilized and Christian men, women and children. In the case of Scott, the man was first chained to a stake and then irons were heated at another fire and these were jabbed into his eyes and forced down his throat, his body was seared from head to foot and tortured in unnameable ways.

Mr. Moorefield Storey said recently in a speech that if any persons took a live rat and saturated it with oil and set it afire in the streets of any city or town in the United States, public indignation would demand the punishment of those persons. And yet, a human being, if he is black, may be burned alive and the incident pass almost unnoticed.

Is there wonder then that the American Negro when he thinks of these things listens in doubt and with feelings of scorn and contempt at resolutions to right the wrongs of oppressed peoples on the other side of the world?

The press will no doubt see in the apparent decrease in the number of lynchings for the year 1917 cause to congratulate the country upon its progress toward civilization, but if the number of lynchings is two hundred or one hundred or only one, so long as there is no determination or effort on the part of the nation to punish the perpetrators the United States stands as a lawless and barbarous

## THE LYNCHING RECORD OF 1917

*New York Age*  
Jan 1918  
The Journal & Guide  
7/7/17  
Fourteen Regular Lynchings

Occurred During First Six  
Months of Year.

## 11 LESS THAN LAST YEAR

Thirteen Negroes, One a Feeble-Minded Woman, and One White Man  
Put to Death.

Dr. Robt. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, has sent out the following statement with reference to the number of lynchings that have occurred during the first six months of 1917.

Editor Journal and Guide, — Sir:—I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 Negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro

woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,  
ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. INDEPENDENT  
JULY 3, 1917.

## Decrease in Lynchings.

From the Wheeling Register.

THE REGISTER is in receipt of the annual statement issued by the Tuskegee Industrial Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, giving the summary of lynchings in the United States for the year 1917, which shows a total of 38 lives taken by mob action during the twelve months just closed, with 36 colored and 2 white victims, a falling off of 17 over 1916. One woman was lynched, as against three in the year prior. Two of the lynchings occurred in Northern States—Montana and Wyoming—while Georgia and Texas tied with six each for the highest number of such crimes.

The lesser number of lynchings would indicate a marked abatement of mob violence, and especially is the improvement to be noted in Georgia, which State lynched thirteen persons in 1916, or more than one a month.

However, while actual lynchings have diminished, even under the present trying times, mob violence really increased when the race riots at East St. Louis, Chester, Pa., and Houston, Tex., are taken into consideration.

YOUNGSTOWN C. VINDICATOR  
JULY 2, 1917

## 11 Less Lynchings in Past 8 Months

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.



# SOME CAUSES FOR NEGRO MIGRATION

*Hustan Observer*  
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 1, 1917.

Editor The Observer:

I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 Negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal.

THERE ARE MANY CASES LIKE THIS

ONE *Advised*  
*the Southern Christian*  
For the first six months of 1917 there had been fewer lynchings than for the same period in many years. Since July first, however, there has been almost an epidemic of lynchings. The menace increases. The courts are growing weaker. The administrators of the law are powerless in the face of a few determined men.

But the determined (?) men find most of their courage in the knowledge that the "officials," in nearly every case, are in sympathy with them or, at least, they know that these officials will offer no resistance to their effort. Furthermore, the participants in a mob know that, if apprehended, they will not be punished. There is not on record a single adequate punishment for the long list of murders committed by mobs. East St. Louis will be no exception.

The causes for lynchings are varied. Any number of white men can and do lynch Negroes at any time for any cause, which is generally a desire to satisfy a raging passion "to get a Negro." And it is no concern of the mob if the Negro is as innocent as a babe that is being imposed upon. The tragedy of the whole situation is that the public is very little less concerned than the mobs as to the real grounds for lynching.

The recent lynching in Amite, La., shows that the Negro lynched had done nothing worthy of death, but that, on the other hand, he had been imposed upon.

One of the most hopeful signs in this awful situation is the attitude of the Southern press to give the facts and then editorially to square its position by the facts.

What are the facts concerning the Amite lynching? We take a paragraph from the Times-Picayune:

"The killing of Simeon Bennett, a white employe of the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company, for which the Rout brothers paid the death penalty, occurred early last spring at Scanlon, when the white man attempted to collect a debt of 75 cents which the Negro boy, Dan Rout, owed him for boring a well some weeks before. The Negro claimed that he did not have the money, whereupon, witnesses allege, Bennett grabbed a Brooks-Scanlon coupon book from Dan and tore out coupons to the amount of 50 cents. Bennett struck at the Negro in resentment of some impudent remark which he made. The Negro dodged the blow and when he did so a pistol fell from his pocket. Dan grabbed the pistol and, pointing it at Bennett, fled behind a store where his brothers and a group of other Negroes were congregated.

"Bennett, it is said, procured a pistol from the store and followed the Negro. A general fusillade followed. Five shots were fired at the white man, two of which took effect and resulted in his death after he had fired twice into the group of Negroes."

It is quite clear that the Negro had committed no crime. The white man was the aggressor; snatched from the Negro his coupon book and tore out coupons, struck the Negro and was armed when he did so, and followed the Negro. By any fair court this Negro would have been acquitted.

The Daily States, in an editorial, not only condemned this lynching, but clearly sifted the facts so that there is not the slightest doubt of the innocence of the Negro lynched. We quote the States' editorial:

"The excellent record Tangipahoa has made in recent years for law and order is marred by the news which comes from Amite of the lynching of two Negroes, for which there appears to have been little or no justification. It was an act of lawlessness which cannot be too severely condemned, and while we have little faith that the lynchers can be apprehended and punished we do believe that the people of this splendid parish ought to make it plain that they have no sympathy with the crime.

"The killing which led to the lynching occurred several months ago. The victim was a white man. He lost his life in a fight with a number of Negroes, in which he appears to have been the aggressor and in which he himself used a pistol.

"Four brothers, Negroes, eventually were taken into custody and through the efforts of the court and sheriff protected from violence. Two of them were so clearly not involved in the tragedy that they were released without trial. One of them, a boy of 17, was convicted of manslaughter; but the able and impartial judge of the district set the verdict aside and ordered another trial.

"Thereupon the small band of lynchers decided to show their resentment of the action of the court in putting to death one of the accused who had never been tried at all and another, the boy of 17, who, the court evidently believed, was not guilty.

"The lynching, therefore, was in defiance and contempt of the constituted authorities of the law—not the result of a sudden and uncontrollable outburst of public indignation—and it was without the slightest extenuation."

Is there any surprise in the face of these incidents that the Negroes are leaving the South? Unless conditions are made better, Negroes will be as scarce in some sections of the South as they are in Canada—they will be few and far between.



## JUST CHICAGO EAST ST. LOUIS.

It took a civil war to knock out some of the older shibboleths about the American negro. Heaven only knows what it is going to take to knock out some of the newer ones.

The civil war knocked out "Negro slavery is a divine institution." But what will knock out these new shibboleths?

"The negro is an inferior race."

"Negroes don't belong up North."

"The southerners know how to treat the negroes because they have to live with them."

"No northerner ought to talk about the negroes till he has lived South."

We do not question that truth makes up a goodly portion of each one of these solemn platitudes.

But we object today, as we objected in the Frank case and the Illinois "Jim Crow" law, to the morass of despair into which the unlimited extension of these half-truths lead. We object to accepting them and then accepting their inevitable corollary, "You can't do anything about it."

We believe that something CAN be done about the race problem in the United States. We believe that something HAS been done about it. We believe that something WILL be done about it.

Booker Washington proved that something could be done about it. He did it on the inch-by-inch conservation process of making the negro industrially free. W. E. Du Bois, the radical leader of the race, did something when he awakened men to the new thought that "race hatred" might be due to social caste as well as difference in blood.

Major Moton of Tuskegee is continuing one of the simplest as well as the most effective of Washington's ideas in publishing year by year the total of lynchings and the reasons for them. By this process he is steadily knocking out the convenient shibboleth that all lynchings are punishments for negro attacks on white women. The relentless statement of fact proves this to be a lie.

Despite the Springfield riots of 1908, despite the lynching of Leo Frank, despite horrors like that at East St. Louis, lynchings are decreasing. The negro exodus to the North has brought the South itself to open journalistic demand that southerners treat the black man more fairly and less cruelly.

It is the gospel of despair to ignore these reforms and to say that they "cannot" come. But

more than this and worse than this abandonment of hope is the effect for positive evil here in this misguided gospel. To say that such horrors as those of East St. Louis "must be" is to encourage their commission by justifying them in advance.

By the cheap sophistication of saying "it can't be stopped" the average man does his bit toward making the disgrace at East St. Louis repeat itself somewhere else.

The men who will help to prevent such repetitions are men like Judge Edward O. Brown of Chicago. He and the enlightened persons working with him followed the Springfield negro massacre by getting thru a law holding municipalities financially liable for riot damage done in their midst. He now proposes to make East St. Louis pay in cash for the destruction of negro homes. Such a lesson forced thru to the end and made to stick will also do its share toward lessening "race wars." It will make thrifty communities think twice before they indulge in the heretofore inexpensive savagery of shooting up the negro quarter.

The world does get better. The negro problem in America is slowly working upward out of the morass. The truth about East St. Louis—the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth—set forth unflinchingly by the kind of investigation Governor Lowden can give will aid this advance by proving the untruth, the inaccuracy and the non-application of some of the trashy shibboleths behind which wholesale murder now seeks to hide itself.

CHICAGO NEWS WORLD HERALD  
JULY 5, 1917

## EAST ST. LOUIS.

Robert R. Morton, principal of the Tuskegee Institute for the training of colored young men and women, under date of July 1 addressed to the newspapers a letter concluding with this paragraph:

"I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North."

On the same day that this letter reached the World Herald came the horrible news from East St. Louis.

The irony of it all!

Fugitives from the barbarous mob violence that threatened them in the South, hundreds of Negroes reached this industrial town in Illinois, a Northern state—the state from which Abraham Lincoln was elected President—to make their homes and earn their livings.

And they found there, in violent and exaggerated form, the same racial prejudice, inflamed by the industrial prejudice of white men whose jobs they were bidding for, that has hurried and cursed them in the South.

In the night scores were murdered, including women

and children—including even little babies. In a night hundreds of homes were burned over the heads of their humble occupants, and many perished in the flames.

It is not recorded that these Negroes had committed any crimes against white women in this Illinois town. It is not recorded, as an inciting cause, that they had been guilty of crime of any kind, other than that they had organized to fight mob with mob, and in the doing so had killed a policeman, member of a squad sent to disperse them. Their real offense, in the minds of their persecutors, was in coming where they were not wanted and in demoralizing the labor market.

Until the shame of East St. Louis has been wiped out and in some fashion atoned for it will not lie in the mouth of any Northern man or newspaper to launch any more sectional fulminations at the South for the wrongs it has heaped upon the blacks.

Until our governmental agencies, North and South, local, state and federal, have devised means for putting an end forever to these grisly, savage horrors of race violence, it will not become us to devote ourselves to anger and denunciation inspired by the tales of war-time barbarities in Europe. We cannot even, with good grace, continue to berate the Kaiser and his aides for making of international law a scrap of paper so long as, without serious and concerted effort to stop it, we permit our own citizens to make of the constitution and the laws of our own land other scraps of paper. The horrors of East St. Louis are just as revolting as are those of Belgium, or Poland, or Armenia, or Serbia. There are crimes committed under the American flag that are ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> heinous than is blood on American soil that cries to God for vengeance!

They are not only our fellow citizens, these Negroes, with legal rights and liberties born in a great and bloody war. They are our wards, as well, the living reminders of the sins of our fathers. The race is not mingled with ours from choice. They are here because our fathers wrested their fathers from their homes, where God had planted them, and brought them here in chains to work in slavery and degradation that the glory and comfort and wealth of the republic might be nurtured in their blood and tears. It is we that have obliged them to live amongst us. It is we that have endowed them, of our own free will, with an equality before the law which we do not recognize in fact and which the law does not enforce for them. They are what we have made them. The problem they present is a problem of our own creation. The evils that spring from it are evils that lie at our door, not at theirs.

We celebrated, but yesterday, the ideals of democracy. We repeated, from thousands of platforms, our stock phrases about all men being created equal; about their being endowed with inalienable rights, among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Where are the inalienable rights of these, our fellow-citizens—the victims of our unforgivable national sin?

Where is the equal protection that should be afforded them in their lives, their liberty, their unobstructed pursuit of happiness?

When, since the great war was fought to right, in small measure, the wrong that had been done them—when have we white men of America, northern or southern, applied ourselves seriously and persistently to enforce upon ourselves the performance of our plain duty toward them?

Does the fact that the problem is hard—that men say feebly it is insoluble—does this lessen our responsibility or our guilt?

We have duties to perform at home as well as in Europe. And it is more clearly our duty to bring democracy to bring safety and liberty, to our own oppressed than the oppressed of other lands. Most of all we owe it ourselves to prove to the world that we are not hypocritical mouthing phrases—for the Belgians—that mean little to us when it comes to applying them to our own foster children.



# Lynchings - 1917 319

## Reports on Sent Press

PHILADELPHIA PA. INQUIRER  
JULY 4, 1917

### Race Riots in Illinois

It was the irony of fate that on the very day when Major Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, was publishing with great satisfaction a list of lynchings in the South showing a heavy decrease for the six months of the year, there should have broken out a riot in Illinois, where more innocent negroes were killed than in all of the Southern lynchings this year to date.

This riot appears to be the result of an unusual influx of negroes from the South, which upset the normal conditions of labor. Major Moton and others have pointed out that the recent migration of negroes from the South was not alone in behalf of higher wages, but to secure better treatment. Probably in most instances results have been satisfactory, but the East St. Louis incident shows that a Northern latitude is not sufficient protection.

Apparently the influx of negroes had upset labor conditions in that particular locality. Most of these unfortunates came North with little or no money and were willing to accept almost any wages offered, which were much greater than those to which they were accustomed. This meant the displacement of some whites, and then the racial element was injected and seemed to have been fanned to a fury.

We are told by some philosophers, including Emperor William II, that the present war is largely economic, that Germany wanted its "place in the sun" because its own limits were too restricted, that its energies must find a wider outlet by force if necessary. Much of the trouble in the world is at bottom economic, but that is no excuse. It does explain that man is a selfish and self-centred animal and that Christianity, other religions and civilization have not yet established altruism. The East St. Louis riot is a disgrace to the Nation, to Illinois and to that liberty which the American people today are making such tremendous efforts to establish.

WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 14, 1917  
JANUARY 3, 1918

ROBERT R. MOTON, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, has issued an interesting statement relative to lynchings in this country last year.

The records kept by the Division of Records and Research of the Institute show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were Negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one was a woman. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of the victims of lynch law, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The institute records show that the offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy,

1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Law-loving and law-abiding Delawareans can find in those facts and figures much food for sober and beneficial thought.

LOS ANGELES CAL RECORD  
JULY 6, 1917

THE TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, founded by Booker T. Washington, for the training of colored young men and women. Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. The Editor, Dear Sir:

I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north.

Yours very truly,  
ROBERT R. MOTON, Principal.

Editor's Note—The above letter was written before the riots of East St. Louis.

It was written by the sole advocate of the negro in the nation.

The St. Louis riots "happened" solely because organized greed offered ignorant southern labor a better wage; offered because the white man was too "cocky".

The East St. Louis riots, where white women bathed in blood and laughed, and where children used axes to hammer black brains under the "eagle" eye of the militia, happened solely because northern bosses sought to oust white labor, "dear labor" and to supplant this labor with immigrants.

Cold business judgment should suggest to American labor bosses that this is a poor time to pull that classic quotation: "Let 'em eat grass."

N.Y. WORLD  
JULY 2, 1918

### A RAY OF HOPE IN LYNCHING RECORDS.

The records of Tuskegee Institute show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States last year, of whom thirty-six were negroes. Twenty-six of the number, or more than two-thirds, were put to death for offenses other than the "usual crime," and all but two of the lynchings occurred in Southern States.

The figures thus continue the stigma on the South of employing lynching as an indiscriminate punishment for negro crimes and misdemeanors and not merely for the protection of womanhood. In at least one-third of the cases where the death penalty was inflicted by mobs the offense was one of a police-court character only.

At the same time, the evil record compares favorably with the worse one for 1916, when fifty-four persons were lynched, of whom fifty were negroes. It is distinctly better than that for 1915, when fifty-four negroes and thirteen whites were put to death by mobs; it is an improvement on the record for 1914, when fifty-two were lynched.

As to whether the decrease of lynchings for one year is due only to chance or reflects influences working toward a permanent improvement remains to be discovered. But it has the merit of being a less discouraging exhibit of the cheapness of negro life under mob law.

LOS ANGELES CAL. TIMES  
JULY 12, 1918

### A RAY OF HOPE IN LYNCHING RECORDS.

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As to whether the decrease of lynchings for one year is due only to chance or reflects influences working toward a permanent improvement remains to be discovered. But it has the merit of being a less discouraging exhibit of the cheapness of negro life under mob law.—[New York World.



THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917.

To the Editor of The Journal.

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape 5, rape 6, murder 3, killing officer of the law 2, for not getting out of road and being insolent 2, attacking women 2, disputing white man's word 2, entering woman's room 2, wounding officer of the law 1, molesting women 1, stealing coat 1, intimacy with woman 1, killing man in altercation 1, accidentally killing child by running automobile over it 1, vagrancy 1, wounding and robbing a man 1, attacking an officer of the law 1, opposition to war draft 1, insulting girls 1, writing insolent letter 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama 4, Arkansas 4, Arizona 1, Florida 1, Georgia 6, Kentucky 2, Louisiana 5, Mississippi 1, Montana 1, Oklahoma 1, South Carolina 1, Tennessee 3, Texas 6, Virginia 1, Wyoming 1.

—R. R. Moton, Principal,  
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Dec. 31.

PROV N Y TIMES  
JULY 3, 1917

The Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (founded by Booker T. Washington for Colored Young Men and Women). Tuskegee, Ala., July 1.

Editor Troy Times:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been or unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that, in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal.

ALABAMA LYNCHINGS

REDACTED IS REDACTED  
TERRE HAUTE IND STAD  
JULY 3, 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

LYNCHINGS IN THE SOUTH.  
TUSKEGEE N Y STATEMAN  
JANUARY 10, 1918

he Record for 1917, and the Nature of the Offenses Committed.

According to records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, the institution for the training of colored young men and women, founded by Booker T. Washington, and now in charge of Monroe N. Work, there were 38 persons lynched in the United States in 1917. These 36 were Negroes, one of them a woman.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Of the two white victims of mob violence, one was charged with rape and murder, and one—in Wyoming—with fomenting strikes. The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

It will thus be seen that less than one-third of those put to death were charged with criminal assaults on women. The offense the prevention of which has been the chief excuse of lynching.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

Dr. R. R. Moton, of Tuskegee Institute, sends us the following information: "Relative to lynchings for 1917 I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

"The offenses charged against the whites lynched were rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1."

TUSKEGEE N Y EXPRESS  
JULY 4, 1917

Record of lynchings.

Editor Buffalo Express:—I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horror connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north.

ROBERT R. MOTON  
Tuskegee, Ala., July 1st.  
HOUSTON TEX CHRONICLE  
JANUARY 3, 1918

The Lynching Record for 1917.

To the Editor of The Chronicle.

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours, R. R. Moton,  
Principal Tuskegee Normal and Industrial College

DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS.

From the Wheeling Register.

THE REGISTER is in receipt of the annual statement issued by the Tuskegee Industrial Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, giving the summary of lynchings in the United States for the year 1917, which shows a total of 38 lives taken by mob action during the twelve months just closed, with 36 colored and 2 white victims, a falling off of 17 over 1916. One woman was lynched, as against three in the year prior. Two of the lynchings occurred in Northern States—Montana and Wyoming—while Georgia and Texas tied with six each for the highest number of such crimes.

The lesser number of lynchings would indicate a marked abatement of mob violence, and especially is the improvement to be noted in Georgia, which State lynched thirteen persons in 1916, or more than one a month.

However, while actual lynchings have diminished, even under the present trying times, mob violence really increased when the race riots at East St. Louis, Chester, Pa., and Houston, Tex., are taken into consideration.

WATERTOWN N Y TIMES  
JANUARY 5, 1918

The records of Tuskegee Institute show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States last year, of whom 36 were negroes. Twenty-six of the number, or more than two-thirds, were lynched for offenses other than the crime which is usually urged in justification. All but two of the lynchings occurred in southern states. The stigma is still upon the south. Still there is an improvement; in 1916, 54 persons were lynched, of whom 50 were negroes. The blackness of the crime is shown that in at least one-third of the cases where the mobs inflicted the death penalty they were only of the ordinary police court character. Protection of womanhood was the excuse in very few cases. The south must still bear the stain of this crime against civilization, but the encouraging feature is that the stain is growing less.

PROV N Y TIMES  
JANUARY 4, 1918

Maj. R. R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, in a communication to The Troy Times, has given the result of the annual record of lynchings. This statement shows that during 1917 thirty-eight persons were lynched, thirty-seven

males and one woman. As usual, most of the victims were negroes, only two white men being subjected to summary execution. The only gratifying fact in this connection is that the lynchings of 1917 show a decided decrease in comparison with 1916. Arizona, Montana and Oklahoma each had a lynching. All the other lynchings occurred in Southern states. A list of the offenses, which brought summary punishment indicates how unnecessary was a resort to lynch law. The list includes murder, robbery and other serious crimes the penalty for which ranges from death to various terms of imprisonment. There is no doubt that legal trials in the communities where the crimes were committed would have resulted in conviction and adequate punishment, and thus justice would have been done. But lynching mobs are not looking for justice. They are animated by the spirit of revenge, or by passion which ignores reason and fair play. And in far too many cases the inflamed and unreasoning mob is encouraged through the laxity, indifference or cowardice of officials whose duty is to maintain order and uphold the majesty of the law. Some of the petty transgressions for which negroes were subjected to a cruel death are thus indicated: Not getting out of the road, and being insolent, two; disputing white men's word, two; wounding an officer of the law, one; stealing a coat, one; vagrancy, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; writing an insolent letter, one. Such incidents recall the ruthless actions of Prussianism in Belgium, France and elsewhere, and are alien to the spirit of fair play in this land of liberty and law.

38 LYNCHINGS, 36 BEING NEGROES, DURING 1917.

LEXINGTON KY LEADER

By TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 29.—Records made here tonight by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were Negroes and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

N Y C TELEGRAM

DECEMBER 31, 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Monday.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.



Reports on, Sent Press

A RAY OF HOPE IN LYNCHING RECORDS

(New York World)

The records of Tuskegee Institute show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States last year, of whom thirty-six were Negroes. Twenty-six of the number, or more than two-thirds, were put to death for offenses other than the "usual crime," and all but two of the lynchings occurred in Southern States.

The figures thus continue the stigma on the South of employing lynching as an indiscriminate punishment for Negro crimes and misdemeanors and not merely for the protection of womanhood. In at least one-third of the cases where the death penalty was inflicted by mobs the offense was one of a police-court character only.

At the same time, the evil record compares favorably with the worse one for 1916, when fifty-four persons were lynched, of whom fifty were Negroes. It is distinctly better than that for 1915, when fifty-four Negroes and thirteen whites were put to death by mobs; it is an improvement on the record for 1914, when fifty-two were lynched.

As to whether the decrease of lynchings for one year is due only to chance or reflects influences working toward a permanent improvement remains to be discovered. But it has the merit of being a less discouraging exhibit of the cheapness of Negro life under mob law.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

Dear Sir,

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. MOTON,

Principal.

NYC POST

JULY 3, 1917

Lynchings Show Decrease.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were even fewer lynchings in the six months ended June 30 than in that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen, as against twenty-five for the same period last year.

38 LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR  
TUSKEGEE, ALA., PRINCIPAL  
DECEMBER 30, 1917

Figures Compiled by Tuskegee Institute Give

Number and Alleged Causes.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, there were 38 persons lynched during 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the whites were one criminal assault and murder, and one fomenting strikes.

The offenses charged against the negroes, in the language of the Tuskegee records, were: Attempted criminal assault, five; criminal assault, six; murder, three; killing officers of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering women's rooms, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The States in which the lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

LYNCHINGS SHOW A DECREASE.

JULY 2, 1917

Fourteen in Six Months, as Against Twenty-five Same Period Year Ago.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen, as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

JULY 5, 1917

On the very day that Prof. Robert Moton, of Tuskegee Institute, was telling the nation that the monthly reports of lynchings of Negroes was on the decrease an East St. Louis, Ill., crowd did away with hundreds of them.

Lynching Record  
Kept at Tuskegee

To The Post.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 31.—I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

R. R. Moton,

Principal.

NYC POST

JULY 2, 1917

The Lynching Record.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law, and by other means, mob were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes, and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among the negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON.

Tuskegee, July 1.

FORWORTHY MADE POST  
JULY 19, 1917

Tuskegee Institute has for years kept a record of lynchings. Its report for the first six months of the current year, comparing this period with the corresponding one for the two previous years, shows a steady decline, the figures being 34, 25 and 14, respectively. It is to be hoped that this proves that the South is growing more disposed to uphold order and the courts.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, five; rape, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering woman's room, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

Very truly yours,

R. R. Moton, Principal.

LYNCHING TOLL  
NEAR TWO SCORE

DECEMBER 30, 1917  
Tuskegee Institute Gives  
Figures for Year.

THIRTY-EIGHT SLAIN

Thirty-seven Men and One Woman  
All but Two Being  
Negroes.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and

research of Tuskegee Institute, there were 38 persons lynched during 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were white. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the whites were one criminal assault and murder, and one fomenting strikes.

The offenses charged against the negroes, in the language of the Tuskegee records, were:

Attempted criminal assault, five; criminal assault, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering women's rooms, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The States in which lynching occurred and number in each State were as follows:

Alabama 4; Arkansas 4; Arizona 1; Florida 1; Georgia 6; Kentucky 2; Louisiana 5; Mississippi 1; Montana 1; Oklahoma 1; South Carolina 1; Tennessee 3; Texas 6; Virginia 1; Wyoming 1.

ATLANTA HERALD-DISPATCH

JANUARY 1, 1918

LYNCHINGS IN 1917.

According to records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, the institution for the training of colored young men and women founded by Booker T. Washington, and now in charge of Monroe N. Work, there were 38 persons lynched in the United States in 1917. Of these 36 were negroes, one of them a woman.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Of the two white victims of mob violence, one was charged with rape and murder, and one—in Wyoming—with fomenting strikes. The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.



...and getting a man, 1; attack  
an officer of the law, 1; opposition to  
war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writ-  
ing insolent letter, 1. It will thus be  
seen that less than one-third on those  
put to death were charged with crim-  
inal assaults on women, an offense  
the prevention of which has been the  
chief excuse for lynching.

CHESTER, PA. REPUBLICAN  
JANUARY 2, 1918

### ARAY OF HOPE IN LYNCHING RECORDS

The records of Tuskegee Institute  
show that thirty-eight persons were  
lynched in the United States last  
year, of whom thirty-six were neg-  
roes. Twenty-six of the number, or  
more than two-thirds, were put to  
death for offenses other than the  
"usual crime," and all but two of the  
lynchings occurred in Southern  
States.

The figures thus continued the stig-  
ma on the South of employing lynch-  
ing as an indiscriminate punishment  
for negro crimes and misdemeanors  
and not merely for the protection of  
womanhood. In at least one-third of  
the cases where the death penalty  
inflicted by mobs the offense was one  
of a Police Court character only.

At the same time, the evil record  
compares favorably with the worse  
one for 1916, when fifty-four persons  
were lynched, of whom fifty were ne-  
groes. It is distinctly better than that  
for 1915, when fifty-four negroes and  
thirteen whites were put to death by  
mobs; it is an improvement on the  
record for 1914, when fifty-two were  
lynched.

As to whether the decrease of  
lynchings for one year is due only to  
chance or reflects influences working  
toward a permanent improvement re-  
mains to be discovered. But it has  
the merit of being a less discouraging  
exhibit of the cheapness of negro life  
under mob law.—New York World.

CHICAGO DISPATCH  
JANUARY 2, 1918

The Editor of The Dispatch.

I send you the following rela-  
tive to lynchings for the year. I find  
in the records kept by the division  
of records and research of Tuskegee  
Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge,  
that there were 38 persons lynched in  
1917, of whom 36 were negroes and  
two whites. Thirty-seven were males  
and one female. Twelve, or a little  
less than one-third of those put to  
death, were charged with rape or at-  
tempted rape.

The offenses charged against the  
whites lynched were: Rape and  
murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.  
The offenses charged against the ne-  
groes were: Attempted rape, five;

rape, six; murder, three; hitting or  
officer of the law, two; for not getting  
out of road and being insolent, two;  
attacking women, two; disputing  
white men's word, two; entering  
woman's room, two; wounding officer  
of the law, one; molesting women,  
one; stealing coat, one; intimacy  
with woman, one; killing man in al-  
tercation, one; accidentally killing  
child by running automobile over it,  
one; vagrancy, one; wounding and  
robbing a man, one; attacking an of-  
ficer of the law, one; opposition to  
war draft, one; insulting girls, one;  
writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings oc-  
curred and number in each state  
were as follows: Alabama, four;  
Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida,  
one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two;  
Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one;  
Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South  
Carolina, one; Tennessee, three;  
Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming,  
one. Very truly yours,

R. R. Moton, Principal.

### PRINCIPAL MOTON ON LYNCHING

The Richmond Planet

7/17/17

The Editor,

Dear Sir:—I send you the follow-  
ing relative to lynchings for the first  
six months of the year. I find ac-  
cording to the records kept by Mon-  
roe N. Work, head of the Division of  
Records and research of the Tuske-  
gee Institute, that in this period there  
have been 14 lynchings. This is all  
less than the number, 25, for the first  
six months of 1916 and 20 less than  
number, 34, for the first six months  
of 1915. In 10 instances, through the  
bravery of officers of the law and by  
other means, mobs were thwarted and  
lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes  
and 1 was white. Four of those put  
to death, 1 white and 3 Negroes were  
charged with the crime of rape. One  
of those put to death was a Negro wo-  
man, reported to have been of unsound  
mind, who in resisting arrest wound-  
ed an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro news-  
papers and from other sources, that  
in spite of the notable decrease in  
the number of victims of mob vio-  
lence for the six months, the horrors  
connected with the recent burning at  
the stake near Memphis have increased  
among Negroes the fear of lynchings  
and accelerated their migration to  
the North.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. MOTON, Principal.  
N Y C POST.

JANUARY 2, 1918

### The Lynching Record for 1917.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

I send you the following, relative to  
lynchings for the year. I find from the  
records kept by the division of records  
and research of Tuskegee Institute, Mon-

roe N. Work in charge, that there were  
thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of  
whom thirty-six were negroes and two  
were whites. Thirty-seven were males  
and one female. Twelve, or a little less  
than one-third, of those put to death  
were charged with rape or attempted  
rape.

The offenses charged against the  
whites lynched were: Rape and murder,  
1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the ne-  
groes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6;  
murder, 3; killing of officer of the law,  
2; for not getting out of road and being  
insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; dis-  
puting white men's word, 2; entering  
woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the  
law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing  
coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; kill-  
ing man in altercation, 1; accidentally  
killing child by running automobile over  
it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and rob-  
bing a man, 1; attacking an officer of  
the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1;  
insulting girls, 1; writing insolent let-  
ter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occur-  
red and number in each State were as  
follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Ari-  
zona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky,  
2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana,  
1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Ten-  
nessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyom-  
ing, 1.

R. R. Moton,

Principal, Tuskegee Institute.

Tuskegee Institute, December 31.

### N Y C WORLD

JULY 3, 1917

### Fewer Lynchings in 1917.

To the Editor of The World:

I send you the following relative to  
lynchings for the first six months of the  
year. I find, according to the records  
kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the  
Division of Records and Research of the  
Tuskegee Institute, that in this period  
there have been fourteen lynchings. This  
is eleven less than the number, twenty-  
five, for the first six months of 1916 and  
twenty less than the number, thirty-  
four, for the first six months of 1915. In  
ten instances, through the bravery of  
officers of the law and by other means,  
mobs were thwarted and lynchings pre-  
vented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were ne-  
groes and one was white. Four of those  
put to death, one white and three ne-  
groes, were charged with the crime of  
rape. One of those put to death was a  
negro woman, reported to have been of  
unsound mind, who in resisting arrest  
wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspa-  
pers and from other sources that in spite  
of the notable decrease in the number  
of victims of mob violence for the six  
months, the horrors connected with the  
recent burning at the stake near Mem-  
phis have increased among negroes the  
fear of lynchings and accelerated their  
migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON, Principal.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 1.

### COLUMBUS CITIZEN JANUARY 3, 1918 THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917.

Editor of Citizen:

I send you the following relative  
to lynchings for the year. I find  
from the records kept by the Divi-  
sion of Records and Research of Tus-  
kegee Institute, Monroe N. Work  
in charge, that there were 38 per-  
sons lynched in 1917, of whom 36  
were negroes and two were whites.  
Thirty-seven were males and one fe-  
male. Twelve, or a little less than  
one-third of those put to death,  
were charged with assault or at-  
tempted assault.

The offenses charged against the  
whites lynched were: Criminal as-  
sault and murder, one; fomenting  
strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the  
negroes were: Attempted assault,  
five; assault, six; murder, three;  
killing officer of the law, two; for  
not getting out of road and being in-  
solent, two; attacking woman, two;  
disputing white men's word, two;  
entering woman's room, two; wound-  
ing officer of the law, one; molesting  
women, one; stealing coat, one; in-  
timacy with woman, one; killing  
man in altercation, one; accidentally  
killing child by running automobile  
over it, one; vagrancy, one; wound-  
ing and robbing a man, one; attack-  
ing an officer of the law, one; oppo-  
sition to war draft, one; insulting  
girls, one; writing insolent letter  
one.

The states in which lynchings oc-  
curred and number in each state  
were as follows: Alabama, four;  
Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Flor-  
ida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky  
two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi  
one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one;  
South Carolina, one; Tennessee,  
three; Texas, six; Virginia, one;  
Wyoming, one.

R. G. MOTON, Principal.

### Thirty-eight Lynched in U. S. During 1917 CHICAGO ILL. TRADER JANUARY 2, 1918 36 Negroes and Two Whites Were Hanged.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 31.—Accord-  
ing to the records kept by the division  
of records and research of Tuskegee In-  
stitute, Monroe N. Work in charge, there  
were 38 persons lynched in the United  
States during 1917, of whom 36 were  
negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven  
were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a  
little less than one-third of those put to  
death, were charged with rape or at-  
tempted rape.

The offenses charged against the  
whites lynched were: Rape and murder,  
1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the ne-  
groes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6;  
murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2;  
for not getting out of road and being in-  
solent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing  
white men's word, 2; entering woman's  
room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1;

molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; in-  
timacy with woman, 1; killing man in  
altercation, 1; accidentally killing child  
by running automobile over it, 1; va-  
grancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man,  
1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; op-  
position to war draft, 1; insulting girls,  
1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings oc-  
curred and number in each State were as  
follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Ari-  
zona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky,  
2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana,  
1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Ten-  
nessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyom-  
ing, 1.

YORK PA DAILY  
JANUARY 3, 1918

### LYNCHINGS IN 1917

Tuskegee Institute has issued its  
annual summary of lynchings for last  
year. In 1917 mobs took the lives of  
38 persons, 17 fewer than in 1916. Thir-  
ty-six were negroes and two whites.  
One woman was lynched, as against  
three in the preceding year. Lynchings  
occurred in two Northern states, one  
each in Montana and Wyoming, while  
Texas last year equalled Georgia's rec-  
ord, each state being disgraced with six  
murders.

It will be deduced from the figures  
given above that American savagery  
has abated somewhat, but mere num-  
bers do not tell the whole story. The  
incitements to lynchings in the offenses  
alleged against victims of mobs, as re-  
ported by the Tuskegee division of rec-  
ords and research, were less grave on  
the whole last year than in 1916. The  
chief offense, attacks on women, was  
avenged in 12 instances in each year.  
That is blot enough on our boasted civ-  
ilization, but democracy is shamed by  
the further record: Two persons were  
lynched for "not getting out of road  
and being insolent"; two for "disputing  
a white man's word"; one for "stealing  
a coat"; one for "accidentally killing a  
child by running automobile over it";  
one for "vagrancy"; one for "writing  
insolent letter." In all of the minor  
cases cited the victims were negroes.  
Would it be unfair to group them all  
under one heading and bluntly ac-  
knowledge these eight persons were  
killed by mobs for nothing but that  
they were black. Probably race preju-  
dice is accountable for a majority of all  
the lynchings. It is something to pon-  
der in these times when we are waging  
war for justice, which recognizes no  
distinctions of race.

ST PAUL MINN WEEKLY  
JANUARY 12, 1918

### 38 LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1917.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 11.—Records  
made public by R. R. Moton, president  
of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38  
persons were lynched in the United  
States in 1917.



# Lynchings - 1917

Reports on, Sent Press

## Trivial Causes for Score of Lynchings

BROKEN N J OBSERVER  
JANUARY 2, 1918

Annual Report Shows Serious Crimes Charged in Only Third of Cases Last Year in Which Mobs Took the Law Into Their Own Hands—Only Two in the North.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 2.—The records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, show that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

## 38 PERSONS WERE LYNCHED IN PAST YEAR; ONE WOMAN

(Special to The Advertiser.)

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute tonight announced that from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

### Offenses

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape,

6; murder, 3; killing officer of law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

### By States

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

BOSTON MASS TRANSCRIPT  
JANUARY 3, 1918

### THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

To the Editor of the Transcript:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, five; rape, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering woman's room, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing a man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

ROBERT R. MOTON, Principal  
Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31, 1917.

ATLANTA GA JOURNAL  
DECEMBER 30, 1917

## Thirty-Seven Persons Lynched During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were thirty-eight persons lynched during 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the whites were one criminal assault and murder, and one fomenting strikes.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted criminal assault five; criminal assault six; murder three; killing officer of the law two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering women's rooms, two; wounding officer of law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child, by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state, were as follows:

Alabama four; Arkansas four; Arizona one; Florida one; Georgia six; Kentucky two; Louisiana five; Mississippi one; Montana one; Oklahoma one; South Carolina one; Tennessee three; Texas six; Virginia one; Wyoming one.

## RECORD OF MOB VIOLENCE

Lynching Accelerates Race Migration, Says Head of Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, has sent out the following, being a record of lynchings for the first six months of 1917.

Dr. Moton says: "I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

"Of those lynched thirteen were Negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three Negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

"I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources that, in

spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north."

GALVESTON TEXAS TRIBUNE  
JANUARY 1, 1918

## LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR.

Principal of Tuskegee Institute Gives Out Statement.

The Tribune has received from Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, the following statement regarding lynchings in the United States during last year:

To The Tribune:  
I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were, rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, six; rape, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering woman's room, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing a man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

Very truly yours,  
R. R. MOTON,  
Principal.

1917 Lynching Record  
CHICAGO H. HERALD  
JANUARY 3, 1918

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., Dec. 31.—To the editor, I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing of officer

of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

R. R. MOTON, Principal.

CHICAGO H. HERALD  
JULY 7, 1917  
The Average View.

CHICAGO, July 3.—To the Editor of THE POST. Sir: The statement by Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Institute, on lynching appearing in the same issue of THE POST which chronicles the latest developments in the East St. Louis laughter, says:

"I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that the horror connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynching and accelerated their migration to the north."

What part of the North, East St. Louis, do you suppose? Possibly Springfield, Ill., where a similar anti-negro reign of terror held forth a few years ago. Brother Moton probably could have a hard time convincing those East St. Louis immigrants that lynching North was the solution of their problem. Is there not ground to fear that this "coming North" business is likely to work out very badly for the southern negro elsewhere? Conditions in the North, where knowledge of the real negro and real sympathy for him, are not to be found in the South, are by no means inviting to a great influx of southern arkies. They had better stay where they are known. I am struck by the collection made a few years ago by a prominent negro educator of Nashville, Tenn., who when asked how the negro was getting along in the north, replied: "Just in proportion as he behaves himself."

L. D. MCGOWAN.

## LYNCHINGS TOOK LIVES OF 38 IN NATION IN PAST YEAR

From the records kept by the Division of Records and Research Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-



those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against whites lynched were: Rape and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against negroes were: Attempted rape, rape, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, attacking women, two; disputing white man's word, two; entering woman's room, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting men, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing a man, one; attacking officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

#### INSTITUTE GIVES RECORD OF LYNCHINGS IN U. S.

The following information relative to lynchings for the year 1917 is from records kept by the Tuskegee Institute: **PASSAIC N. J. HERALD** JANUARY 2, 1918

There were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with criminal assault. The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Criminal assault and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1. The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted criminal assault 5; criminal assault, 6; murder, 2; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows:—Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

#### THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

To the Editor of The Post-Standard:  
I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

#### SIX MONTHS LYNCHINGS JULY 3, 1917

To the Editor of The Holyoke Telegram:

Sir:—I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 Negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gathered from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,  
**ROBERT R. MOTON**, Principal.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 1, 1917.

#### WINSTON-SALEM N. C. JOURNAL DECEMBER 30, 1917

#### THIRTY-EIGHT LYNCHED DURING PRESENT YEAR

(By The Associated Press)  
Tuskegee, Dec. 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced tonight that from the records kept by the Division of Records, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched during 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The states in which lynching occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama 4; Arkansas 4; Arizona 1; Florida 1; Georgia 6; Kentucky 2; Louisiana 5; Mississippi 1; Montana 1; Oklahoma 1; South Carolina 1; Tennessee 3; Texas 6; Virginia 1; Wyoming 1.

#### RECORD ON LYNCHING.

Fewer Occurred From Jan. 1 to July 1 Than Previous Year.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ended June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were 14 lynchings for the first six months this year, against 25 for the corresponding period of the year before.

Of those lynched 13 were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman.

Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

#### N. C. WORLD JULY 2, 1918

The Lynching Record for 1917.

To the Editor of The World:  
I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6.

#### N. Y. COURIER NEW-YORKER JANUARY 4, 1918

—Thirty-eight persons were lynched in States in 1917, according to the records kept by K. K. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute. All but two of the victims were Negroes, and only of those was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana; the others were in Southern States, Texas and Georgia having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen cases.

Some of the members of the Little Rock, Ark. Law Association are T. J. Price, W. McIntosh, J. R. Booker, W. Brown, N. H. Harris, J. E. King, J. W. E. Clarke, A. V. Jones and M. W. Guy.

#### CHATTANOOGA TENN NEWS JULY 2, 1917

During the last six months there has been a notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence according to a statistical table prepared by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. It states that according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the institute, there have been fourteen lynchings within the past half-year. This is eleven less than the number for the first six months of 1916, which had a total of twenty-five. The first six months of 1915 had thirty-four and hence it is noted that the lynchings this year are twenty less than the number for the same period of the year. Of those lynched thirteen were negroes, and one was white.

#### Lynching Record Lower.

Tuskegee Inst., Ala., July 1, 1917.

The record kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of these lynched, thirteen were Negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three Negroes were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a woman, reported to have been of unsound mind who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro papers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months the horrors connected with the recent burning at stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north.

Yours very truly,  
**ROBERT R. MOTON**, Principal.

#### N. Y. C. HERALD JULY 3, 1917

Lynchings and the Negro Migration.  
In a communication printed in the letter column of the HERALD to-day Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, declares there have been fourteen lynchings in the first six months of this year, as compared with twenty-five in the corresponding period of 1916 and thirty-four in the first half of 1915. As against this improvement he cites the horrors of recent burnings at the stake near Memphis as having had a most far reaching effect in accelerating the migration of negroes to the North.

That lynchings and the fear of lynchings are responsible for the wholesale migration, which is one of the acutest problems of the South to-day, was the gist of all the speeches at a mass meeting of negroes in this city on Sunday. It is estimated that almost a half million negroes have left the South in the last twelve months, and the leaders of the race are unanimously of the opinion that the lynchings and race discrimination alone are responsible, and that the higher wages in the North have had little or no influence. This sudden exodus presents a new problem to the South, which is being left helpless, without industrial workers, at the moment when its industries are reaching a prosperous stage. It is a problem that the South alone cannot solve and must solve if she wishes to keep pace with the remainder of industrial America.

#### ACCELERATING NEGRO MIGRATION TO THE NORTH.

Editor of The Record:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

**ROBERT R. MOTON**,  
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July, 1917.



# Lynchings - 1917 322

## Reports on Sent Press

NY HERALD  
JULY 3, 1917

**Lynchings and the Negro Migration.**  
In a communication printed in the letter column of the HERALD to-day Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, declares there have been fourteen lynchings in the first six months of this year, as compared with twenty-five in the corresponding period of 1916 and thirty-four in the first half of 1915. As against this improvement he cites the horrors of recent burnings at the stake near Memphis as having had a most far reaching effect in accelerating the migration of negroes to the North.

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**38 LYNCHINGS IN 1917**  
**EXAMINED**  
**JANUARY 1, 1918**  
All the Victims Except Two Were Negroes—One Woman Lynched.

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 1.—Records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, show that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking woman, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in alter-

cation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

**THE DECREASING NUMBER OF LYNCHINGS**  
**BOSTON, MASS. TRANSCRIPT**  
**JULY 3, 1917**

I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in the first six months of this year there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916, and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis have increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON  
Principal, Tuskegee Institute,  
Tuskegee, Ala., July 1.  
**WINCHESTER PA NEWS**  
**JANUARY 4, 1918**

**A Ray of Hope in Lynching Records.**  
New York World.  
The records of Tuskegee Institute show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States last year, of whom thirty-six were negroes. Twenty-six of the number, or more than two-thirds, were put to death for offenses other than the "usual crime," and all but two of the lynchings occurred in Southern States.

The figures thus continue the stigma on the South of employing lynching as an indiscriminate punishment for negro crimes and misdemeanors and not merely for the protection of womanhood. In at least one-third of the cases where the death penalty inflicted by mobs the offense was one of a Police Court character only.

At the same time, the evil record compares favorably with the worse one for 1916, when fifty-four persons were lynched, of whom fifty were negroes. It is distinctly better than that for 1915, when fifty-four negroes and thirteen whites were put to death by

mobs; it is an improvement on the record for 1914, when fifty-two were lynched.

As to whether the decrease of lynchings for one year is due only to chance or reflects influences working toward a permanent improvement remains to be discovered. But it has the merit of being a less discouraging exhibit of the cheapness of negro life under mob law.

**MANY PERSONS WERE SERIOUSLY HURT IN HOLYOKE MASS. ACCIDENTS**  
**JANUARY 2, 1918**  
NEW YORK, Jan. 2.

were seriously injured and a score of persons bruised and cut by flying glass here today when a city-bound trolley car jumped the track and crashed through the Fort Lee (N. J.) ferry station gate in Edgewater, opposite One Hundred and Thirtieth street.

The car was crowded to its capacity and shot down the incline from the heights above with great speed.

Failure of the airbrakes is believed responsible.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 2.—Twenty persons were injured, some seriously, when a westbound street car rammed a Vandeventer car amidships during the night. Both cars were crowded with New Year's merry-makers.

Failure of air brakes to hold on a slippery rail is given as the cause of the accident.

**GEORGIA AND TEXAS/TIE FOR LYNCHING RECORD**  
**ATLANTA GA CONSTITUTION**  
**DECEMBER 30, 1917**

**Each State Guilty in Six Cases.**  
**38 Persons Lynched in 1917—36 Negroes.**

Tuskegee, Ala., December 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were thirty-eight persons lynched during 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the whites were one criminal assault and murder, and one fomenting strikes.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted criminal assault, five; criminal assault, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering women's rooms, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing

child by running automobile over it one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were as follows:

Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

**LYNCHINGS DECREASING.**

In spite of the recent wave of lynching that has passed over the Southern section of the country, lawlessness of the kind is sensibly diminishing. Principal Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee has given out a semi-annual letter having to do with lynching for the past six months of this year. That institution has what is called the division of records and research, and of which Monroe N. Work is head. The work is reliable and meant to be so as to serve as indisputable data for the guide of those interested and as a matter of history.

At the conclusion of last year we called attention to the reduction in lynchings, commenting on the fact in a congratulatory sense because it was progress in the right direction. The terrible happenings at Atlanta during the past year when five persons were hanged at one time caused quite a flurry, giving the appearance that lynching was coming back in its old vigorous form. But the year ended right if we may thus express it, showing that that sort of lawlessness had lessened as against the previous year. And in dealing with the race question it is necessary to think in the aggregate, contrasting years, decades, ages rather than what presents today and tomorrow. What we need is to keep quickened is the thing of progression, regular and certain, even if slow.

There are individuals among us who see every incident of lawlessness as calamity, and who go to extremes in trying to mend the situation, saying and doing things which very often are out of joint with the times. Progress is often retarded in this way; and the hurting feature is that those individuals do not know the harm they have done. Those who have fingers on the pulse of the situation and can read right the national throb viewed from the white man's side know well enough the country's condition, and moreover, they know what irritates unduly. Those individuals go on the theory that the rights of men are not to be withheld a single moment. And they are right. But reason speaks, or should speak in a louder tone. The world of mankind as well as our own race have

been struggling for the light, for the light of that democracy, the "immeasured" freedom of peoples and individuals, the quest of which has thrown the present-day civilization in a state of turpitude. So we are not so bad

or as we seem to think. Our progress must also result from a system of campaigning, but of a certain kind, the kind that fits the case. It is not force here or power excepting that peculiar power, silent in a way yet potent, and which issues from a well ordered state of existence; demands its own reward.

Instead of having twenty-five lynchings or more for the first half of the present year there were only fourteen, twenty-five being the number for the first half of 1916. In the first half of 1915 thirty-four persons were lynched, chiefly Negroes. So it will be seen that if the good work keeps up the time will be when to lynch a man will be a "seven days' wonder." This remarkable change is due to the better understanding of the races. The white people have learned that the Negroes are more independent than they thought; that all they want is to be let alone in their mode of association and enjoyment, heeding as little the white people as the white people heed them. They are content to work with the white people, for them, to buy of them, to sell to them, and end it right here without the supposed hankering after social equality. Then the progress of the Negroes has exacted a sort of dumb admiration from those who are of the mob variety. This admiration is not expressed, but it cannot be concealed; it disarms rancor and hate, toning down the thing of inapproachable superiority. These and other things are conspiring to unsex the mob. Our young women are becoming beautiful and the young men handsome; it teaches the lesson that there is much reason for content right within the Negro ranks. The mob finds but small cause to exist. These are the little big things that's doing the work, rather than great proclamations and resolutions, and surely not agitation of at least a certain kind.

**38 LYNCHED IN 1918, AND RACE MASSACRE**

*The Guardian*  
**DECREASE OF INDIVIDUAL LYNCHINGS ANNOUNCED BUT EXCLUDES MASSACRE OF HUNDRED COLORED PERSONS AT E. ST. LOUIS—1 WOMAN AND THREE WHITE MEN IN GRUESOME LIST—CHARGES OF RAPE AND ATTEMPTED RAPE LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF EXCUSES.**

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 2, 1918.—From the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Colored and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and mur-



der. 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

#### Offenses Charged.

The offenses charged against the Colored were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking woman, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing men in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

#### Lynching States.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each (state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

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#### PARTIAL LIST OF DETAILED LYNCHINGS BY CHICAGO-TRIBUNE.

(Chicago Tribune, Jan. 2, 1917.)

#### JANUARY.

0—Unnamed Negro, rape, Greely, Ala.

#### FEBRUARY.

8—James Smith, Colored, murder, Proctor, Ark.

#### MARCH.

1—Linton Clinton, rape, Colored, Meigs, Ga.

1—Emma Hooper, murder, Colored, Hammond, La.

#### MAY.

6—Star Daley, murder, Florence, Ariz.

20—Lawrence Dempsey, murderous assault, Fulton, Ky.

22—Eli Persons, Colored, Frankfort, Tenn.

#### JUNE.

2—Van Haynes, Colored, murder, Columbia, Miss.

2—Prat Hempton, Colored, murder, Columbia, Miss.

16—Henry Conly, Colored, rape, Holdenwith, Okla.

22—Benjamin Harper, Colored, murder Courtney, Tex.

24—Poe, Habbie, Colored, attempted rape, Pickens county, Alabama.

25—Charles Sawyer, Colored rape, Galveston, Tex.

25—Shepherd Trent, Colored, attempted rape, Punta Gordo, Fla.

25—Jesse Powell, Colored, threat to kill, Montgomery, Ala.

#### JULY.

21—Unidentified Negro, burglary, Reform, Ala.

21—Andrew Avery, Colored, robbery, Garland City, Ark.

29—Daniel Ront, Colored, murder, Amite, La.

29—Jerry Ront, Colored murder,

Amite, La.

#### AUGUST.

1—Frank Little, I. W. W. leader, Butte, Mont.

9—Aaron Jimerson, Colored, murderous assault, Oshtdown, Ark.

17—William Page, Colored, attempted rape, Lillen, Va.

22—Charles Jones, Colored, attempted rape near Marshall, Tex.

24—W. D. Sims, Colored, seditious utterance, York, S. C.

24—Lawrence Sheppard, Colored, larceny, near Memphis, Tenn.

#### SEPTEMBER.

13—Samuel Cates Colored, insulting girls, England, Ark.

18—Rufus Moncrief, Colored, rape, Whitehall, Ga.

21—Bert Smith, attempted rape, Goose Creek, Tex.

#### OCTOBER.

5—Unnamed Negro, robbery, Arkansas.

13—Walter Clark, Colored, murder, Danville, Va.

#### NOVEMBER.

16—Jesse Slater, Colored, insulting white woman, Quitman, Ga.

#### DECEMBER.

2—Ligon Scott, Colored, rape, Dyersburg, Tenn.

#### LYNCHINGS FOR 32 YEARS.

By Chicago Tribune.

1885	.....	184
1886	.....	138
87	.....	122
88	.....	143
89	.....	176
90	.....	127
91	.....	191
92	.....	205
93	.....	200
94	.....	190
95	.....	171
96	.....	131
97	.....	106
98	.....	127
99	.....	107
00	.....	115
01	.....	130
02	.....	96
03	.....	104
04	.....	60
06	.....	60
07	.....	65
08	.....	100
09	.....	87
10	.....	74
11	.....	71
12	.....	64
13	.....	48
14	.....	54
15	.....	93
16	.....	53
17	.....	34

#### THE LYNCHING RECORD.

According to the annual custom of Monroe N. Work, of the Division of Records and Research, of Tuskegee Institute, he has sent out a statement of the lynchings for the year of 1917. As usual the far greater numbers were Negroes; of the 38 there being only two white persons. The number, while yet appalling, the condition was relieved in part of an ugly feature. Only one woman figured in the past

year's total. This was very much different to the previous year, when several woman were included in the atrocities.

There were, however, in the past year some features that appeared unusually malignant, burning in at least two instances. Burnings are not new features, but owing to the new day as a compensation and as an incentive of advanced Negro respectability, his to be. The new year is on, and some downright factoring in the country's how we feel that it will finish with affairs and his necessity as a war aidless lynching than the past year. The cause such happenings of Dyersburg great tendency somewhat assures this, to stand out in bold relief. They appear and not merely an optimistic mouth-pear more hideous, although few, coming. In the event, the lagging zeal will pared with the hundreds lynched and courage take anew. The promised usually in the past years, and which and will remain in view. The declaration included every species of human variation of Independence will still ring dalism. Then too, some think to intrude the Houston affair, and which kind are due. may bet set down as a racial calamity since it grew immediately out of the everlasting race question. But really, this phase should not be included in the sum of the year's anti-Negro manifestations, and can not be in the actual clearing.

Mr. Works did not state the number of lynchings for 1916, a most important thing to do. At this moment we don't have the data of that year before us, but we think the total for 1917 was less than the total for 1916. This being true we have reason to maintain our optimism, holding that the coming years yet give promise of a golden era of Negro citizenship, and which once on will not be seriously interrupted. Since we have the mob the most and best to be expected is that it declines yearly at its nefarious business. Already it is beginning to appear out of place, on its last legs, beating the bushes to muster up courage to screw itself up to the sticking place. Like McBeth it is getting conscience stricken, and we pray that there be no Lady McBeth's to rive on to the frenzy; but if so our murdered kin and our un-murdered kind will yet stand up as many Banquo's to frighten and terrorize guilty consciences into submission to the way of the law abiding.

The mob must give away, it must resign its self and assumed function. Civilization demands it. The very peace and perpetuity of the country demands it. It is going, consequently we do not feel to arraign the millions of white people, most of whom are no more with mob practices than the Negroes. In fact there has ever been a great reserve of white people who held themselves ready to see to it that the mob spirit was not given aid and comfort, and who became active in unusual ways that served as checks and balances against untoward circumstances.

With the mob spirit on the decline and the spirit of uplift and industrial help on the incline, is a very salutary condition. In our moments of dejection owing to mobs and general discrimination we forget the good things that fall to us. It does not mean that we should be idle when we are beset

with difficulties, it means that we should not fail to balance the books, giving credit when it is due.

Our race has much to be thankful for in this great America, the very leading nation of the world. And it may be providential that we are set down here, another Israel, both as a compensation and as an incentive of advanced Negro respectability, his to be. The new year is on, and some downright factoring in the country's how we feel that it will finish with affairs and his necessity as a war aidless lynching than the past year. The cause such happenings of Dyersburg great tendency somewhat assures this, to stand out in bold relief. They appear and not merely an optimistic mouth-pear more hideous, although few, coming. In the event, the lagging zeal will pared with the hundreds lynched and courage take anew. The promised usually in the past years, and which and will remain in view. The declaration included every species of human variation of Independence will still ring dalism. Then too, some think to intrude the Houston affair, and which kind are due. may bet set down as a racial calamity since it grew immediately out of the everlasting race question. But really, this phase should not be included in the sum of the year's anti-Negro manifestations, and can not be in the actual clearing.

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WINSTON-SALEM N. C. SENTINEL  
JULY 2, 1917  
ELEVEN LESS LYNCHINGS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1917  
Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months just ended than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. The records show the lynchings during the past six months to be fourteen, as against twenty-five for the first half of 1916, and thirty-four for the first half of 1915.

Of those lynched thirty-one were negroes and one was white. One was a negro woman. Robert K. Morton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north as due to the fear of lynchings.

## FEWER LYNCHINGS IN LAST SIX MONTHS

SAY CITY MICH TRIBUNE

JULY 2, 1917

Tuskegee, Head ininks rear

Drives Negroes to the

North.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30, than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were Negroes and one a white man. One was a Negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee attributes much of the Negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

ROBERT R. MOTON, PRINCIPAL OF TUSKEGEE, ON LYNCHING.

JULY 1, 1917.

Editor, Dear Sir:—I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 Negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,  
ROBERT R. MOTON, Principal.

FEWER LYNCHINGS

(Associated Press)

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ended June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings, the first six months this year against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before. Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.



# Lynchings - 1917

## Reports on Sent Press. 323

HARTFORD, CONN. COURANT  
JANUARY 2, 1918

The Lynchings of 1917.  
To the Editor of The Courant:

I send you the following report to lynchings for the year. I find in the records compiled by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, that there were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape. The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. Moton.

Principal.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 3

## LYNCHING RECORD

### FOR HALF YEAR

NASHVILLE TENN BANNER  
JULY 2 1917

Eleven Less Than In First Six Months of 1916—Alabama Institute Conductor.

By Associated Press.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings in the first six months this year against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before.

Of those lynched, thirteen were Negroes and one a white man.

CHICAGO ILL. HERALD  
JULY 4, 1917

## THE LYNCHING RECORD.

**T**USKEGEE Institute, the famous negro school keeps a record of lynching as a sort of barometer of race prejudice. Four days ago Principal Robert R. Moton sent out a letter showing the reduction of lynching during the first six months of this year. A curious emphasis is thrown upon what he says by the events of the last day or two. Here in part is his letter:

"In this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916, and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

"Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

"I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North."

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## RACE PREJUDICE

I wonder if Principal Moton could write that last paragraph today. Deep as must be the horror of lynching, natural as must be the desire to seek a refuge free from all possibility of lawless violence, the negro today cannot turn to the North for safety. I wonder what the Tuskegee teacher and the host of useful men like him are thinking.

The Jews in Russia escaped the blight of race prejudice when Russia itself became free. Almost the first act of the provisional government was to abolish the Pale. The Armenians in Turkey are still the prey of national hatred because of their religion, but they, too, have the prospect of freedom when peace comes. The Poles in Galicia are hated by the Germans. Thirty thousand Poles have been hanged since the war began, according to a charge recently made in the Austrian parliament. But again the Poles have every right to expect safety when the war ends.

Other races feel the curse of prejudice. But nearly everywhere political

readjustments will solve the problem. In the United States that is not true. There is no bureaucracy here to be overthrown. There are no new states to be freed. America has all the forms of self-government. It is doubtful if the Constitution could do more than it has done for the negro. For him there is no promised land.

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## THE TERRIBLE INSTINCT

Race riots reveal terribly the possibilities of the human heart. Fear or bravado, cowardice or the bullying instinct, account for much violence. But the blood lust, the desire to inflict punishment for its own sake, the appetite for cruelty seems to be ever present.

In all the sinister happenings on the Missouri border nothing was more evil than the behavior of two young girls who are said to have dragged an old negro woman from a street car and to have beaten her. What actuated these children of 17? The chances are that never before had they fought. They had no personal grievance. Yet they could attack like animals. And after this one outburst it is probable that they will lead gentle, peaceful lives, not different from millions of their sisters.

Most of the men involved were doubtless ordinarily just as mild. Hoodlums and frenzied agitators can start mobs, but average citizens are required to make up the memberships. Men usually decent share in the responsibility.

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## UNWISE MILITANCY.

What is the answer? The white man will be told what he ought to do from myriad sources. For him the solution will be found in an energetic public opinion which compels officials swiftly and unmercifully to enforce the law. But the negro, what he to do?

Hard as it may be, I believe that the negro will do better to follow the advice of the late Booker T. Washington than to do the bidding of some of the present critics of Dr. Washington. During the last few years militancy has been preached. The cruel injustices which the negro often is called on to endure have rankled. Some of the leaders have counseled an aggressive defense. The advice is natural, but it won't work in America.

The negro is outnumbered. He cannot in reason look for anything except defeat and suffering for the innocent from a bellicose display. Nonetheless an important group of leaders are constantly calling for more self-assertion among negroes. Sadly it must be realized no help is to be had from such a course. Rather the road that Dr. Washington blazoned should be followed.

It is galling for the negro college graduate to be treated as an inferior, but he can better serve his race by wallowing his anger than by appealing for resistance. In short, the negro has to be concessive. Justification for this cannot be found in abstract

logic, but experience shows that there is no other way along which progress is now attainable.

## THE LYNCHING RECORD

### SHOWS BIG DECREASE

JULY 4, 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings in the first six months this year against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before.

Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one white man. One was a negro woman.

Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

WORCESTER MASS GAZETTE

JULY 5, 1917

## LYNCHINGS

Records kept by Tuskegee Institute show a notable decrease of the number of lynchings during the first six months of 1917, compared with the same period of last year. While in 1916 the number was 25 up to the end of June, this year there have been but 14, or 11 less. This is a more favorable showing even than in 1915, when there were 34 lynchings in the period noted. Of the lynchings this year, 13 of the victims were negroes and one was a white.

It is said, however, that even the decrease in the number of lynchings has not served to allay the fears of negroes that they may be subjected to violent treatment in the South. The particular thing to augment this fear is declared to be the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis, Tenn. Further, the increased fear is said to have been a prime factor in causing the migration of negroes to the North.

Much doubt must exist as to the soundness of this theory, as accounting in any great degree for the northward migration. There can be little doubt, however, that the treatment the negro has received in the South during many years, made many of the race more responsive to the lure of higher wages and the promise of better living conditions in the North.

It must be, however, with a shock of utter dismay, that the negro finds, through the experience of his race in East St. Louis, the truth in the maxim that, the oftener you change, the more certain you are to find the same thing.

The northern exodus appears to have transferred the negro problem, but to

have changed it in no wise whatever  
UTICA N. Y. HERALD-DISPATCH  
JULY 3, 1917

## LYNCHINGS.

According to records kept at the Tuskegee Institute there were 14 lynchings during the first six months of the year. This is 11 under the first six months last year and 20 under the same period of 1915. In 10 instances lynchings were prevented by officers of the law.

In discussing the statistics Principal Robert R. Moton of the institute says that it appears that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of mob violence, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased the fear of lynching among negroes and accelerated their migration to the north.

With the outbreak of mob violence at East St. Louis as a start, the lynching record for the latter half of the year is already blacker than that of the first six months.

## REPORT OF LYNCHINGS PAST YEAR SUBMITTED

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 4.—From the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, it shows that there were 25 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 13 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

The total number of these lynchings does not include the hundreds of men who were killed and burned by southern plantation owners during the past year, nor does it include the number of women who were murdered because they refused to bow to the beastly desire of southern white men. The report only gives a scant compilation of those who have suffered at the hands of the south and its sacred infamy and orgy, lynch law and burning. Several cities in Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi are accredited with lynch-



ing and burning of men and women by the wholesale for the past year, but no matter of record is kept of such miscarriage of justice, because in many instances city officials were the prime instigators and lynchers and records were suppressed. A traveler brings the story north that in a portion of southwest Georgia, where whites were having what is known as "hot supper" amusement was furnished by the feeding of a 16-year-old boy to the flames, while drunken whites danced about the bonfire.

**BLACK MARK LEADING**  
**TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE**  
**MAY 16, 1918**  
The record of lynchings in the United States for the year just closed has been compiled and announced by Principal Robert R. Moton of the Tuskegee institute, in a report received in the Tribune's mail Wednesday. This is a compilation which the Tuskegee officers have prepared for several years.

The statement shows that thirty-eight persons were lynched in this country in 1917. Of these thirty-six were negroes, including one negro woman, and two were white men. Less than one-third of the thirty-eight were charged with the crime which has long been regarded as the special provocation for mob violence. Among the lesser offenses charged against the victims were insolence, stealing, vagrancy, opposing war draft, writing an insolent letter. One of the white men was charged with fomenting strikes.

Lynchings occurred in fifteen states. Georgia and Texas led with six each. Then came Louisiana five, Alabama and Arkansas, four each, Tennessee three, Kentucky two.

There were lynchings in but two northern states, Montana and Wyoming, with one each.

According to the most reliable figures obtainable there were 3,638 lynchings in the United States from 1885, when the first records were made, to Dec. 31, 1915, an average per year of 121. In 1916 there were fifty-five lynchings, fifty-two males and three females. It is gratifying to note that the total for 1917 shows a marked reduction compared with 1916, and believed to be the smallest total in the past thirty-two years.

**TACOMA WASH NEWS**  
**MAY 14, 1918**  
**38 LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1917.**  
TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 14.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States last year. All except two were negroes and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in 16 lynchings.

**PITTSBURG PA GAZETTE TIMES**  
**JULY 4, 1917**

### Lynchings and Negro Migration.

The Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute has just issued its reports on lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1917. Thirteen Negroes and one white person were put to death by mobs. In the same period last year there were 25 lynchings and in the first six months of 1915 there were 34. Nineteen-seventeen stood to make a brave show of reform in this department of crime, but it will not, for when the final figures for the year are assembled the great toll of Negro lives taken by the East St. Louis mobs this month will be included. In this connection the following from Maj. ROBERT R. MOTON, principal of Tuskegee Institute, is significant:

I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

The Negroes who are leaving the South to escape the horrors of mob violence are jumping from the frying pan into the fire. No other section of the North has approached the crime of the Southern Illinois community that has shocked the country in the last few days by its atrocious treatment of its colored population, but great uneasiness has been felt in many cities over the possible effects of the influx of blacks from the South. Probably the treatment accorded the migrating Negroes in the section where they reasonably expected to find friends, tolerance at least, will drive them back to their original haunts. They will go with much bitterness of spirit and conceivably may become a real menace where they are numerous. That can be avoided by a change of tactics among the Southern whites. They need the Negroes, as was demonstrated by their outcry when the black laborers began to come North because of inducements offered here and ill-treatment suffered there. If the South will be more humane to its colored people they will remain and be a blessing to the land. Let support such institutions as Tuskegee and its "race problem" soon will be solved.

### U. S. Lynchings for 1917.

Thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1917, according to the records by R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute. All but two of the victims were negroes, and one of those was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana; the others were in Southern States, Texas and Georgia having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen cases.—Argonaut.

**CHICAGO ILL TRIBUNE**  
**JULY 3, 1917**

### LYNCHINGS FALL OFF.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman.

Robert Moton, principal at Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

### YEAR'S LYNCHINGS ARE 38

All Except Two Negroes and All But One in Southern States.

**PORTLAND ORE OREGONIAN**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1917**  
TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30.—Records made public last night by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and one of those was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each.

Attacks on white women were given as the cause in 16 instances.

### LYNCHING SHOW LARGE DECREASE

**BIRMINGHAM ALA NEWS**  
**JULY 2, 1917**  
Tuskegee records show Thirteen Negroes and One White Man in Past Six Months.

By Associated Press.  
TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30, than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings the first six months this year against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, Principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.

**38 Persons Lynched**  
**BAKERSFIELD CALIF**  
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TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—Records made public last night by R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

**11 FEWER LYNCHINGS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1917**  
**INDIANAPOLIS (IND) NEWS**  
**JULY 2, 1917**  
(COURTESY OF THE LACOSTE.)

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.

**PETERSBURG VA INDEX**  
**DECEMBER 30, 1917**  
TUSKEGEE FIGURES ON LYNCHINGS FOR 1917.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The states in which lynching occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama 4, Arkansas 4, Arizona 1, Florida 1, Georgia 6, Kentucky 2, Louisiana 5, Mississippi 1, Montana 1, Oklahoma 1, South Carolina 1, Tennessee 3, Texas 6, Virginia 1, Wyoming 1.

**PROY N Y TIMES**  
**JULY 3, 1917**  
A Chill for the Melting Pot.

The American melting pot has had a chill in the black belt of Illinois. East St. Louis has given a startling instance of racial animosity, and, as usual, the negroes have been the chief sufferers. It is a disappointing commentary upon the letter appearing in our columns to-day, and addressed to The Troy Times, from Robert R. Moton, who succeeded Booker T. Washington as the head of Tuskegee Institute for the education of the negro. Colonel Moton observed a rather encouraging diminution in the number of lynchings during recent months. But the volcanic eruption in East St. Louis is a discomfiting offset. So long as communities treat men for their good deeds or bad deeds not as men but as members of certain races, the principles of freedom and equality will not have their perfect work.

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## TUSKEGEE HEAD GIVES FACTS ON 1917 LYNCHINGS

*The new York news*  
**Major R. R. Moton Reveals Records Which Showed Thirty-eight Cases, Two of Whom Were White**

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—Principal Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee, in his annual lynching report, says:

"I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year: I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe R. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes, and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; So Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1."

**SPRINGFIELD MASS CENTINEL**  
**JULY 3, 1917**

### FEWER LYNCHINGS THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 fewer lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the like period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were Negroes and one a white man. One was a Negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the Negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.



# Lynchings - 1917

Reports on Sent Press

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## MANY LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR 1917

AUGUSTA GA CHRONICLE  
DECEMBER 30, 1917

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Total of Thirty-eight, Two Being White Men—Twelve Were Charged With "Usual Crime."

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, there were 38 persons lynched during 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempt criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the whites were one criminal assault and murder, and one fomenting strikes.

The offenses charged against the negroes, in the language of the Tuskegee records, were:

Attempting criminal assault, five; criminal assault, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, two; four not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, two; disputing white men's word, two; entering women's rooms, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

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Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 6; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

TROIT MICH. JOURNAL  
LY 2, 1917

## FEAR OF LYNCHING DRIVE NEGROES NORTH

By Associated Press.

TUSKEGEE, July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30, than during that period last year, according to record compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

## TUSKEGEE HEAD GIVES FACTS ON 1917 LYNCHINGS

N. Y. C. AMSTERDAM NEWS  
JANUARY 3, 1918

Major R. R. Moton Reveals Records Which Showed Thirty-eight Cases, Two of Whom Were White

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—Principal Robert R. Moton of Tuskegee in his annual lynching report, says:

"I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year: I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe R. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes, and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

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The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1."

STICA N Y PRESS

JULY 5, 1917

According to statistics carefully kept at Tuskegee Institute there were only 14 lynchings in the Southern States during the first six months of this year. This is 11 less than for the same time in 1916 and 20 less than for the same period in 1915. The indications are that much needed improvement is being experienced. Of those lynched 13 were negroes and one was white.

MILWAUKEE WIS WISCONSIN  
JANUARY 2, 1918

Continuing a custom long ago established by his predecessor, Booker T. Washington, Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, submitted today with an annual record of the lynchings throughout the country. As in the past, these orgies for the most part result in the dispatching of negroes by whites. From the current report on the subject it appears that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape. The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1. The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to the war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1. Often the South, in which most of the lynchings of negroes occur, assert that terrorism is necessary to protect the white women. It is noticeable, however, that five of the black victims of last year's lynchings perished for the alleged commission of the following offenses: Not getting out of the road, and being insolent, 2; disputing white man's word, 2; stealing coat, 1; writing insolent letter, 1. Then if the men charged with these offenses were guilty, the heavy punishment visited upon them was viciously disproportionate to their offense. Very often it happens that lynchings dispatch perfectly innocent victims. The practice is a dark blot on the localities in which it is perpetrated.

## 38 LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR

CHICAGO ILL HERALD  
DECEMBER 31, 1917

Record of Lynching Shows One Victim Was a Woman.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

THE LYNCHING INDUSTRY

(The Raleigh News and Observer)  
7/7/17

Notwithstanding the war and the fervent appeals that are being made for humanity against brutality; notwithstanding the efforts being made to keep the Negro in this Southland where, it is urged, he finds his best friends and his greatest opportunities; notwithstanding the fact that the Negro is showing his patriotism and loyalty in every possible way in this great crisis; notwithstanding all these, the lynching industry goes bravely on. No less than three Negroes were lynched last week. Is it to be wondered at that many of these people are seeking homes and protection elsewhere?

The South will learn when too late, we fear, that the Negro is its best asset. Docile, not given to strikes and lawlessness; easily controlled; easily satisfied; good humored; the Negro is the very best laboring element in America. But he is awakening to the fact of his wrongs. He feels that he is exposed to the mob at any time. He feels that there is no protection for him in the law. He is leaving. Statistics show that, so far, this year, there has been a decrease of nearly 50 per cent in lynching as compared with 1916. During the first six months of last year the number was 25. During the first six months of the present year the number is 14 including one woman. Should this ratio continue for the next two or three years the whole ghastly business will have been wiped out. In the meanwhile many other victims must suffer and the nation must carry the stain.

## The Lynching Record for 1917

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31, 1917.—Dear Sir: I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year: I find from

the records kept by the Division of Records and Research for Tuskegee Institute, Monroe R. Work in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. MOTON, Principal  
FIGURES RELATIVE TO LYNCHINGS

For the first six months in the year we are gratified in the fact that there has been a decided decrease in the number of lynchings. We are yet hopeful and optimistic as to the future welfare of the race in this country. We still have faith in the better classes of the white race, North and South, which we are looking forward to be the leaven in the lump for justice and fair play to the American Negro.

Below is a letter setting forth these facts for Tuskegee:

Tuskegee, Institute, Ala., July 1, 1917  
The Editor, Dear Sir:

I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings.

324



This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months in 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were Negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and three Negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis, has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,  
ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal.

## GEORGIA AND TEXAS TIE FOR LYNCHING RECORD

Each State Guilty in Six Cases.  
38 Persons Lynched in  
1917—36 Negroes.

Tuskegee, Ala., December 29.—Dr. R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, tonight announced that from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were thirty-eight persons lynched during 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were men and one a woman. Twelve were charged with criminal assault or attempted criminal assault.

The offenses charged against the whites were one criminal assault and murder, and one fomenting strikes.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted criminal assault, five; criminal assault, six; murder, three; killing officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, three; disputing white men's word, two; entering women's rooms, two; wounding officer of the law, one; molesting women, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing inso-

lent letter, one.  
The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were as follows:  
Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

## LYNCHING AND ITS CAUSES

Head of Tuskegee Institute Gives Statistics on Punishment Without Law's Formality.

By R. R. Moton, President Tuskegee Institute, in New York Evening Post.

I find from the records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work in charge, that there were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third, of those put to death were charged with attacking women or attempted attack.

The offenses charged against whites lynched were: Attack and murder, one; fomenting strikes, one.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted attack, five; attack, six; murder, three; killing of officer of the law, two; for not getting out of road and being insolent, two; attacking women, three; disputing white men's word, two; entering woman's room, two; wounding officer of the law, one; stealing coat, one; intimacy with woman, one; killing man in altercation, one; accidentally killing child by running motor car over it, one; vagrancy, one; wounding and robbing a man, one; attacking an officer of the law, one; opposition to war draft, one; insulting girls, one; writing insolent letter, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each were as follows:

Alabama, four; Arkansas, four; Arizona, one; Florida, one; Georgia, six; Kentucky, two; Louisiana, five; Mississippi, one; Montana, one; Oklahoma, one; South Carolina, one; Tennessee, three; Texas, six; Virginia, one; Wyoming, one.

CHARLESTON S.C. EVE POST  
JULY 2, 1917

## Figures Say Lynching Is Now On Decrease

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months just ended than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. The records show the lynchings during the past six months to be 14, against 25 for the first half of 1916 and 34 for the first half of 1915.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. One was a negro woman.

Robert K. Morton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North as due to the fear of lynchings.

## COLUMBUS O. STATE JOURNAL JULY 5, 1917

### SIX MONTHS' LYNCHINGS.

Editor Ohio State Journal:  
I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that, in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burnings at the stake near Memphis have increased the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON, Principal.  
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 1.

WILWAUKEE EVE WISCONSIN  
JULY 6, 1917

Under date of the 1st of the present month Colonel Robert R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, sent to the New York Herald a record of lynching in the United States for the first six months of the present year. He found that in the period referred to there were fourteen lynchings—eleven less than the number for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented. Of those lynched, Colonel Moton stated, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death—one white and three negroes—were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law. The Colonel went on to say that in his opinion, despite the decreased number of lynchings of late, it was the fear of Southern lynching, rather than the attraction of higher wages, that had led to the movement of negro labor from the Southern states to the North. At the very moment that Colonel Moton was writing this report, the race riot which resulted in the killing of a hundred negroes and several whites was in progress at East St. Louis, Ill.

CHICAGO EVE NEWS  
JULY 3, 1917

### Lynchings.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE/ Ala., July 1.—To the Editor of THE POST. Sir: I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. One was a negro woman. Robert K. Morton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North as due to the fear of lynchings.

search of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, thru the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North. Yours very truly,  
ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal.

MONTGOMERY ALA. ADVERTISER  
JULY 3, 1917

### FEWER LYNCHINGS.

(Associated Press.)  
TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings the first six months this year against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before. Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.

CINCINNATI O. ENQUIRER  
JULY 3, 1917

### FEWER LYNCHINGS REPORTED.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14, as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, Principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.

G. AND FORKS N. D. JOURNAL  
JULY 3, 1917

### LYNCHINGS, YEAR'S RECORD.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29.—Records made public tonight by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in southern states, Georgia, and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in thirteen instances.

## SOUTH BEND IND. TRIBUNE JULY 2, 1917

### Lynchings on Decrease.

By Associated Press.  
TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 13 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a Negro woman. Robert Moton, Principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the Negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

WICHITA KANS. EAGLE  
JULY 3, 1917

### Alabama Lynchings Fewer

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

MUSKOGEE OKLA. PHOENIX  
DECEMBER 25, 1917

James Garden negro, was lynched in Henryetta yesterday to avenge the death of a white man. Hundreds of negroes left Henryetta during the excitement, more than one hundred coming to Muskogee.

One hundred and ten baskets containing good substantial things to eat will be distributed to the needy today by the Salvation Army.

Just as a little Christmas gift to the service Sergeant Standfield yesterday enlisted five men in the United States army.

BOSTON MASS. DAILY GLOBE  
JULY 3, 1917

### TUSKEGEE RECORDS SHOW

#### LYNCHINGS FEWER IN 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—According to records on lynchings during the first six months of the year, kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, in this period there have been 14. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915.

In 10 instances, through officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and one was white. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

N. Y. C. EVE. SUN  
JULY 3, 1917

### Lynchings Show Decrease.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—There were eleven fewer lynchings in the six months ended June 30 than in the same period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14, as against twenty-five for the first six months of 1916.



# Lynchings - 1917

## Reports on, Sent Press

**TO PRINCIPAL MOTON.** was a sane one, and his utterance es, and achievements showed that he never once abandoned the position that his race deserved, and that he was entitled to, and unqualifyingly asked a square deal; asked for equal rights as well as for equal opportunities to amass wealth. But is is a matter of unbroken record that whenever a mediocre man has been elevated, by men who control his actions, to a high position formerly occupied by a man who was big, strong and effective for good, and unselfishly so, such a mediocre's course proved vacillating and hurtful to the people he was supposed to represent. The Bee is desirous of seeing Tuskegee continue to accomplish the good its great founder built it to accomplish, and to continue to hold the approval of the race, and for that reason advises Principal Moton, in the future, to qualify his vacillating, excusing statements, given to the public press, with this explanation: "For the white South against the race, Southern consumption and edification." The Bee bears Principal Moton no ill will, but it has a deeper interest in the success of the South than in the personal success of any mediocre, white or black. North or South.

In many newspapers throughout the North, Principal Moton's periodical statement of the number of lynchings committed by whites in the South, in which colored people were the martyred victims, appeared the same day that the press carried the account of the awful riot in East St. Louis. That statement of the number of lynchings, for the past six months, devoid of comment, pro or con, appeared cowardly apologetic, and carried the implied regret that there had not been a greater number of lynchings for him to chronicle. The late Dr. Booker T. Washington never in his early struggles, nor in the height of his achievements, appeared the apologetic pacifist that Robert R. Moton assays to be. The late Dr. Washington, while ever and always a pacifist

## 38 PEOPLE LYNCHED DURING PAST YEAR.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT

Wm. Wilkerson, Pa. Leader  
JANUARY 2, 1918

Records Kept by Division of  
Records and Research of  
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

## 36 WERE NEGROES

Lynchings Occurred in Fifteen States of the Union in 1917

According to the records kept by the

Divisions of Record and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Monroe N. Work, in charge, there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with assault or attempted assault.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Criminal assault and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

## ELIZABETH N. J. JOURNAL JULY 3, 1917

Lynchings for Six Months.

Editor Journal—I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916, and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,  
ROBERT R. MOTON,

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, July 1  
WILMINGTON DEL IVY LEAF  
JULY 3, 1917

Lynchings show decrease. Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—There were eleven fewer lynchings in the six months ended June 30 than in that period last year, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen, as against twenty-five for the same period last year.

## N. C. MORGAN JOURNAL JANUARY 3, 1918

Robert R. Moton, der Leiter des von dem verstorbenen Booker T. Washington gegründeten Tuskegee-Instituts, berichtet, daß in den Vereinigten Staaten während des letzten Jahres 38 Personen Richter Lynch zum Opfer fielen; 36 Personen, unter ihnen eine Frau, waren farbige.

An der Spitze der Lynchmorde standen die Staaten Texas und Georgia mit je sechs Lynchfällen; dann folgen Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming.

## JULY 3, 1917

## FEWER LYNCHINGS IN SOUTH.

Negroes Strung Up in Six Months: 25 Last Year.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—Eleven fewer lynchings of unconvicted negroes by enraged whites were reported for the six months ended June 30 than for that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. This year the lynchings in six months numbered fourteen, against twenty-five last year.

Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

## BOSTON MASS. TRANSCRIPT JULY 2, 1917

## MIGRATIONS LESSEN LYNCHINGS

Facts Indicated by Figures Compiled at Tuskegee Institute

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven fewer lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the like period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a woman negro. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

## WALLA WALLA WASH UNION DECEMBER 30, 1917

## THIRTY-EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED DURING YEAR

(By Associated Press.)

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—Records made public tonight by R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes and one of these was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

Georgia and Texas kept up their "lone" battling averages as it concerns the mobbing business. Each state did six "stunts," the highest records of the past year.

Chicago, Ill.  
Chicago, Ill.  
July 14, 1917.

## RECORD

## Lynching Accelerates Race Migration, Says Head of Tuskegee Institute.

Dr. Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, has sent out the following, being a record of lynchings for the first six months of 1917. Dr. Moton says:

"I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

"Of those lynched thirteen were Negroes, and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three Negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

"I gather from reading Negro newspapers and from other sources that, in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among Negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north."

## FEWER LYNCHINGS IN SOUTH.

JULY 3, 1917  
But Fear Drives Negroes North, Says Tuskegee's Head.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen, as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen victims were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, Principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.



## Butchering in the North

**BIRMINGHAM ALA EXPOSURE**  
JULY 5, 1917

ing of members of one race by those of another without discrimination is worse.

In the south an individual negro believed to be guilty of a heinous crime and, generally speaking, in an isolated community where there is little or no police protection, is sometimes strung up as an example to his race. Sometimes the lynching is for cause less grievous, but never is the lynching directed with hate to the race. All negroes but the offender are as safe while he is hunted and run down and pays the forfeit as before the crime was committed. The orderly well-behaved negro in the south is as secure as the orderly well-behaved white man.

The East St. Louis, Illinois, mob in the state in which the Chicago Tribune that makes a specialty of lynching statistics is published and gloats over them in criticism of the south—just across the river from a city of 800,000 population with thousands of law officers to protect them—in this northern city negro men were slaughtered by the wholesale because they sought employment; negro women were beaten by white women.

The statistician of Tuskegee Institute in his summary of lynchings during the past six months, laid emphasis upon the lynchings at Memphis, where a brute paid for the worst crime imaginable committed in the most brutish manner. No other Memphis negroes were molested. It was the irony of simultaneousness that caused the publication of lynching statistics on the very day that the north was killing negroes like sheep in a butcher's pen.

The truth is, the southern negro was never in quite such an enviable position as now. He is needed here for his labor, and he is paid well for it. Living is had at much lower cost in the south, and the climate is better suited to him. Here he has his own ministry, his own parks, his own churches, his own schools, his own barbecues, picnics, baseball diamonds, his own drug stores, movies, hotels, physicians, absolute safety in the parallel channel in which he progresses alongside the white man.

The south has educated the negro until his illiteracy has fallen from 90 to 30 per cent. The public schools maintained by southern white men and taught by negro school teachers paid by southern white tax-payers have reduced this illiteracy; the schools supported by the north have not removed illiteracy. They start where illiteracy has been removed by the southern white man's money.

The superior southern white man has insisted upon fair treatment of the negro in the lower courts of law and at the hands of petty constabulary, and has

brought about vastly improved conditions in that respect. Negroes who have suffered from legal persecution have not been alone; poor white men have borne the same brunt.

There is room in the north for the superior negro who knows how to make the turns without coming into friction with the white man there; there is none for the plantation negro who is yet in the early stage of self development. The south has practically solved the negro question; the south is the best place for the negro. The north knows nothing about the negro and has no patience with him.

**38 Lynched in U. S. in Year, Says Tuskegee President**

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30.—Records made public last night by R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and of those one was a woman.

One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

**Ala. Lynching Toll Shows Decrease of 11; Chicago 14 in 6 Months**  
JULY 2, 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL  
JULY 3, 1917

**LYNCHINGS FALLING OFF, SAYS NEGRO INSTITUTE**

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)  
Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

N. C. TELEGRAM  
DECEMBER 31, 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Monday.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

The Lynching Record for 1917.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 31.  
Dear Editor, Palatka Advocate:  
I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of these put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape. The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1. The offenses charged against Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white man's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,  
R. R. MOTON, Principal  
HAGERSTOWN, MD. GLOBE  
JULY 2, 1917

**LYNCHINGS WERE FEWER**

Principal of Tuskegee Institute Compiles Statistics on Crime.

There were 11 fewer lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14, as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributed much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.

ALBANY N. Y. ARGUS  
JULY 9, 1917

According to statistics furnished by Tuskegee Institute, there were only 14 lynchings in the southern States during the first six months of this year, or 11 less than in the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than in the same period of 1915. The high cost of rope is having a reformatory effect on our southern friends.

SYRACUSE N. Y. POST-STANDARD  
JULY 4, 1917

**The Shame of Illinois.**

The Tuskegee Institute has kept for years a record of Negro lynchings in the South. The semi-annual report of Principal Moton, printed in The Post-Standard yesterday, showed thirteen Negroes done to death by mobs, compared with twenty-five for the same period in 1916 and thirty-four in 1915. The reduction is so decided that it clearly tells, if not the decline of race antipathy, certainly the increase of respect for law throughout the Southern states.

Simultaneously with the printing of this encouraging report comes the awful story of Negro massacre in a Northern city. In the South the mob has gone after a Negro accused of crime to make him an example in order to frighten others. In the State of Illinois the mob went not after a Negro, but after all Negroes, for no other purpose than color hatred and class vengeance, which fed upon its own crimes and became cumulative in its fury and its slaughter.

The Southern people claim that they have no animosity to the Negro race, but that they will not accept the Negro as an individual upon terms of social, economic or civic equality. They say to the Negro that he will find that while the North makes great pretense of dealing with him fairly as an individual, as a race the North will never receive Negroes. The East St. Louis riots certainly confirm this contention. It was not the deed of one or a dozen Negroes that started the conflagration. It could not have swept so far because of white antipathy to individual blacks. The breadth and depth of the community crime testifies to a widespread and deep-seated hatred of black men because they are black men, to a determination to slay men not for their misdeeds, but solely for their color. And this horrible manifestation of race prejudice occurred not in benighted Mississippi, where whites feel they must hold the blacks in subjection and in fear because there are so many of them, but in the state of Abraham Lincoln.

The Negroes have been migrating to the North by the hundred thousand since the demand for labor has lifted wages to new standards. They have left their homeland not only in the promise of higher wages but of more generous treatment. The Southerners, resenting their departure, for the South needs all its labor, have warned them that they would find the animosity to the black harder to bear in the North than the South. The East St. Louis massacre is a vindication of the Southern judgment. In this industrial center, where white and black have worked together so long that they should understand

each other, came a conflict of the races which in slaughter has set a shameful record beyond anything the South has ever done.

The government of Illinois must send agents into its darkest Egypt to hunt out the arch criminals and to punish them. A crime so monstrous cannot be overlooked or whitewashed. The honor of the state, stained by a mob which its authorities were powerless to control, may only be redeemed by the thoroughness of its inquiry and the surety of the justice it administers.

CHATTANOOGA TENN NEWS  
JULY 2, 1917

**FEWER LYNCHINGS.**

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records completed by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research at Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings the first six months this year, against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before.

Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

**FEWER LYNCHINGS,**

**TUSKEGEE REPORTS**

NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE  
JULY 3, 1917

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings the first six months this year against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before. Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman.

CHICAGO PA. N. AMERICAN  
JULY 3, 1917

**BIG SLUMP IN LYNCHINGS;**

**ONLY 14 IN LAST 6 MONTHS**

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven fewer lynchings in the six months ending June 30 than in that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year.

Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the negro migration north to the fear of lynchings.

DES MOINES IA CAPITAL  
JULY 3, 1917

**LYNCHINGS DECREASE**

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 3.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Much of the Negro migration north is attributed by the Tuskegee college to fear of the lynching.



# Lynchings - 1917

Reports on, Sent Press 326

Waterbury, Conn. Record-Journal  
JULY 3, 1917

## Exodus to the North

Negro migration to the north has been increasing at such a rate that it has begun to worry the south. It is an economic factor in the up-building of the new south that the Negro is appreciated there and his exodus deplored. This attitude of regarding the blacks as mere creatures of work on whom the community is dependent for prosperity must be

changed if the south hopes to save itself from the serious effects that a continued migration of these workers threatens.

As to why the Negro comes north he himself gives the answer. It is not that the demand for workers here is such as to give him a chance, altho that also has been a factor in encouraging him to move. There have been times in the past when he might have found plenty of jobs in a north that had more work than workers to undertake it, but he did not come.

In a world struggling for freedom and higher ideals of democracy it is not remarkable that the black race also should be seeking "for a place in the sun." The treatment that the south has given the Negro is only too well known. Robert R. Moton, who succeeded Booker T. Washington as principal of Tuskegee, has sent out a statement from that school to the effect that lynchings have accelerated the migration of the Negro to the north. For the first six months of this year there have been 13 lynchings of Negroes in the south. Only three of these victims were charged with the crime that the south believes offers an excuse for killing a man without a trial. One was a Negro woman, reported of unsound mind, who resisted arrest and wounded an officer of the law in doing so. Fear of such treatment at the hands of a lawless mob drives the Negro north.

At a mass meeting of Negroes in New York Sunday, it was estimated that 350,000 Negroes have left Georgia, Alabama, Florida and other southern states within the past 10 months with an economic loss of \$200,000,000 to that section of the country. Rev. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist church in New York, says that his people leave the south because they are tired of being kept out of public parks and libraries and of being deprived of educational opportunities for their children. A common sign in the south reads "Negroes and dogs not admitted."

In marked contrast is the method used by northern cities in handling Negroes. In Detroit, where it is reported over 100 Negroes are arriving every day, over 100 have been

placed as skilled workers by the Detroit urban league. Noon meetings have been held in the factories by the league to educate the newcomer into how he may best succeed as a worker in the north. The league has also given attention to the problem of helping these people to make pleasant and decent use of their leisure time. If the south is to save itself, it will have to radically change its treatment of and attitude toward the Negro.

## Lynching in South

SAN FRANCISCO CAL EXAMINER  
JULY 11, 1917  
6 the Editor of "The Examiner"

SIR: I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings, more is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of assault on women. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. MORTON,

Principal Tuskegee Institute

Tuskegee, Ala., July 1.

MONROE N. C. JOURNAL.

JULY 10, 1917

Fewer Lynchings.

There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30, than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. There were 14 lynchings the first six months this year, against 25 for the corresponding period of the year before. Of those lynched 13 were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman.

DAVENPORT IA DEMOCRAT

DECEMBER 31, 1917

## LYNCHINGS PAST YEAR NUMBER 38

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in 16 instances.

PHILADELPHIA PA GAZETTE  
DECEMBER 31, 1917

## 36 NEGROES LYNCHED IN 1917

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 30.—Records made up by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were Negroes and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in 16 instances.

## THIRTY-EIGHT LYNCHINGS IN UNITED STATES IN 1917

TUSKEGEE (ALA.), Dec. 30.—Records made public tonight by R. R. Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes and one of those was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

N Y C JOURNAL  
DECEMBER 31, 1917  
38 LYNCHINGS IN

## U. S DURING 1917

Tuskegee, Dec. 31.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States.

All except two were negroes and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana, and all the others were in Southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

PHILADELPHIA PA INQUIRER  
JULY 3, 1917

## Lynchings Fewer in Alabama

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fifteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes the decrease to the fear of lynchings.

MARIETTA OHIO LEADER

JANUARY 7, 1918

## FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1917.

Tuskegee's statistical record of lynchings in the United States for the year 1917 is a low one, the Springfield Republican notes. Thirty-eight persons were lynched, as compared with 54 in 1916, 67 in 1915 and 52 in 1914. Presumably the Tuskegee records are very carefully compiled. Statistics on lynchings are not always accurate. The World Almanac is not satisfactory in this particular, the figures given for the year being incomplete and the comparisons with former years being inadequate. Yet there is abundant reason to believe that a five-year average in the present period shows marked improvement over a five-year average in the period of 20 years or more ago.

In Cutler's book on "Lynch Law," the author worked out statistics covering the years 1882-1903 inclusive. The low record in that period was 57 lynchings in 1902, the total rising to 104 in 1903. In 1897 there were 165 lynchings in 1893 there were 200 and in 1892 there were 235, the maximum number in all the years recorded since 1882. In the decade 1882-1891 inclusive, the maximum was reached in the year 1884, when 211 persons were lynched.

Allowing for the different methods of gathering these statistics in the different periods, and conceding all possible errors in compiling them, the decline in lynching seems notable. It is the more notable when one takes into account the fact that the population of the United States has doubled since 1880. For the annual number of lynchings has approximately been divided by two in the past 35 years, while the country's population has been multiplied by two.

Moorfield Storey of Boston said in a recent address at a Negro conference that the United States could not be called a civilized nation until the lynching evil was stamped out. It is not our purpose to quarrel with that statement. It would be hard to dispute anyone who should say that there are no fully civilized nations in existence. All that one is justified in saying of the United States, if the lynchings statistics can be depended upon, is that it is somewhat more civilized than it used to be.

N Y C EVE SUN

JULY 3, 1917

## Lynchings Show Decrease.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven fewer lynchings in the six months ended June 30 than in that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen as against twenty-five for the same period last year.

## THE NEGRO PROBLEM

A most interesting side light is thrown on the negro migration from the south to the north by Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, in his semi-annual resume of lynchings. Principal Moton says:

"I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months ending July 1, 1917, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings, and accelerated their migration to the north."

According to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research at Tuskegee, the lynchings during the first half of the present year numbered 14. This compares with 25 during the first six months of 1916, and with 34 during the corresponding six months of 1915. Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and 1 white. Of the four put to death, 1 white and 3 negroes were charged with the crime of rape. In at least 10 instances mobs were thwarted in their attempts to wreak vengeance upon prisoners by the bravery of officers of the law.

While no one can have any compassion upon negroes who attack white women, the south must find some other way to mete out justice to such offenders than by putting them to death by lynching. The south is complaining about the lack of labor and of the immense migration of the blacks to the north. Perhaps the south is not treating its colored population as it should treat this class of labor. The negro who has come to the north is having his troubles, too, as witness the recent riots in East St. Louis, where so many persons were killed.

If northern employers are going to continue importing negroes for work in their factories or other establishments, it would seem to be their duty to provide homes for this class of labor. They will have to reckon with the natural prejudice existing against the blacks. The more negroes there come to any community, the larger must be the section in which they must live. As the "black belt" widens, a certain number of white renters are necessarily dispossessed. The man who imports the black laborers is as much obligated to solve the whole problem as the community, if not more so.



# Herald Readers Discuss Topics of Live Interest

N.Y.C. HERALD  
JULY 3, 1917

Mr. Robert Moton, of Tuskegee Institute, Finds the Number of Lynchings Decreased.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number, twenty-five, for the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than the number, thirty-four, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death—one white and three negroes—were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

ROBERT R. MOTON,  
Principal Tuskegee Institute,  
Tuskegee, Ala., July 1, 1917.

## MOBS LYNCHED 38 IN 1917

All But Two Were Negroes, and All But One in South.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in 10.

## 38 LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year.

All except two were negroes and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

# Letters from the People

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, JANUARY 3, 1918  
The Lynching Record for 1917.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., December 31, 1917.

Editor of the Vindicator, Sir:

I send to you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe, N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. Moton, Principal.

## LYNCHING DECREASES, SAYS R. R. MOTON

Guardian 7/7/17

TUSKEGEE BUREAU FOUND ONLY 14 FOR 6 MONTHS—ADMITS TERRORS OF MEMPHIS ATTEMPT APPARENTLY TO STOP MIGRATION—NOW COMES E. ST. LOUIS.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 1, 1917

According to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the Division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were colored and 1 was white. Four of those put

to death, 1 white and 3 colored were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

In spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among the race the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North.

## 38 LYNCHINGS IN 1917.

One Woman Among Victims, Says Major Moton.

Major Robert R. Moton, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, in which position he succeeded the late Booker Washington, made public yesterday a statement showing the lynchings that had taken place during the year 1917.

He reported that thirty-eight persons were lynched, of whom two were white and thirty-six negroes. Thirty-seven of the persons were men and one was a woman. Twelve of the total number were put to death for attacks upon women. The white men lynched were charged respectively with murder and attacking a woman and fomenting strikes. The summary of the other cases shows:

"The offences charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

"The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

PATERSON N.Y. NEWS  
MARCH 11, 1918

## FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1917.

Tuskegee's statistical record of lynchings in the United States for the year 1917, is a low one. Thirty-eight persons were lynched as compared with 54 in 1916, 67 in 1915, 51 in 1914. Presumably the Tuskegee records are very carefully compiled. Statistics on lynchings are not always accurate. The World Almanac is not satisfactory in this particular, the figures given for the year being incomplete and the comparisons with former years being inadequate. Yet there is abundant reason to believe that a five-year average in the present period shows marked improvement over a five-year average

in the period of 20 years or more ago.

In Cutler's book "Lynch Law," the author worked out statistics covering the years 1882-1903 inclusive. The low record in that period was 97 lynchings in 1902, the total rising to 104 in 1903. In 1897 there were 165 lynchings, in 1893 there were 200 and in 1892 there were 235, the maximum number in all the years recorded since 1882. In the decade 1882-1891 inclusive, the maximum was reached in the year 1884, when 211 persons were lynched.

Allowing for the different methods of gathering these statistics in the different periods, and conceding all possible errors on compiling them, the decline in lynching seems notable. It is the more notable when one takes into account the fact that the population of the United States has doubled since 1880. For the annual number of lynchings has approximately been divided by two in the past 35 years, while the country's population has been multiplied by two.

Moorfield Storey, of Boston, said a recent address at a negro conference that the United States could not be called a civilized nation until the lynching evil was stamped out. It is not our purpose to quarrel with that statement. It would be hard to dispute anyone who should say that there are no fully civilized nations in existence. All that one is justified in saying of the United States, if the lynching statistics can be depended upon, is that it is somewhat more civilized than it used to be.

## THE RECORD OF JUDGE LYNCH, FOR 1917—THE SMOKE FROM BURNING VICTIMS DARKENS THE HEAVENS, WHERE IS THE LORD!

We are indebted to the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute for a record of Judge Lynch in 1917. President R. R. Moton sends us the following figures:

"There were 38 persons lynched in 1917 of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites; 37 were males and 1 female. 12 or little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's words, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing

child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1."

(These are awful figures for a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The sad thing about the record is that it is incomplete. There has never been a complete record of the awful work of Judge Lynch. In the great war where, we are fighting to make the world safe for democracy, certainly lynching can have no place.)

## CAMDEN N.J. TELEGRAM JANUARY 1, 1918 THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917

To the Editor of the Post-Telegram:

I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Virginia, 1; Texas, 6; Wyoming, 1.

Very truly yours,

R. R. MOTON,  
Principal, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 31, 1917.

## N.Y.C. SUN, JANUARY 2, 1918

Albert Wortman, Standard Oil representative at Sao Paulo, Brazil, said there was no possibility of a German uprising in Brazil as the Brazilians had them in "splendid shape."



# Lynchings - 1917

Report on, Sent Press 327

TRENTON N. J. GAZETTE  
JULY 3, 1917

## Southern Negroes in the North.

A letter received yesterday from Robert A. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, may explain in some measure the increasingly large numbers of southern negroes that are coming to this section of the north.

Principal Moton says:

I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death—one white and three negroes—were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers, and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north.

Residents of Trenton and contiguous territory have been noting for some time the steadily increasing numbers of southern negroes that are coming to this section of the north. Sociologists have sought to explain this migration on the theory that the southern negro is gradually becoming more educated, and that education is bringing to him a greater and greater realization of the fact that the southern whites are traditionally and unalterably his enemies. He is learning not only that the north furnishes him

greater safety from lynch law, but that it offers him greater opportunities for material and intellectual advancement.

If the colored people of the south are right in these conclusions, they can not be blamed for migrating. In the meantime, it is reasonable to presume that it is only the more intelligent of them that are gathering the courage and the spirit to move among strangers.

However, there should be no opportunity lost in impressing these immigrants with the fact that the crimes which brought the race into disrepute in the south and which gave rise to the "lynching habit" will never be tolerated among any civilized people.

Down in Camden county a few days ago, several newly arrived southern negroes armed themselves with guns and went out into a suburban town and started a "reign of terror." They "shot up" two or three policemen, but were finally arrested and taken before the district judge, who sent them to the penitentiary for long terms of years.

The incident merely serves to impress the lesson that the southern negro will have every opportunity and will be accorded every kindness in the north so long ONLY as he behaves himself.

MEMPHIS, ILL. STAR  
JULY 4, 1917

It is highly gratifying to note that the number of lynchings of colored men during the year 1917 is much less than that for the year before. The record of the states, however, is sullied by the horror of the situation at East St. Louis, where negroes have been shot and killed by an infuriated mob. This trouble grows out of a union labor fight in that vicinity and furnishes ample evidence that the labor question is far from settled in the United States. The Star is in receipt of a letter from Robert A. Moton, who succeeded the late Booker T. Wash-

ington as head of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., which is as follows:

Editor Star: I send you the following relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been fourteen lynchings. This is eleven less than the number (25) for first six months of 1916, and twenty less than the number (34) for the first six months of 1915. In ten instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one was white. Four of those put to death, one white and three negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months, the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the north. Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. MORTON,  
Principal.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 1, '17.  
CLINT MICH JOURNAL  
JANUARY 2, 1917

### LYNCHINGS

Moorfield Storey of Boston in a recent address at a Negro conference said that the United States could not be called a civilized nation until the lynching evil was stamped out. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, has just issued the institute's report on lynchings in 1917, which shows a total of 38 persons lynched during the last year, as compared with 54 in 1916, 67 in 1915 and 52 in 1914.

Prof. Moton's report shows that of the 38 persons lynched, 36 of them were Negroes. One of the whites was lynched for rape and murder; the other for fomenting strikes. The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering women's rooms, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing men in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to the draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings oc-

curred and number in each state were: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Records of lynchings from 1893 to 1903, as compiled in Cutler's book on "Lynch Law", the low mark was reached in 1902, when there were 97 lynchings, or nearly three times as many as in 1917. The high mark was reached in 1892, when there were 235 persons lynched. In 1893 there were 200, in 1893, 211, and in 1897 there were 165.

Whatever may be one's opinion of the statement of Moorfield Storey there will be general gratification, both north and south, over the figures which go to prove that lynchings are rapidly diminishing. Whether this is due to the behavior of the Negroes or the whites is a question that undoubtedly would cause some heated disputes if brought forth in the south, but we are inclined to the belief that the improvement affects both. The Negroes have learned the bitter lesson that freedom for them does not mean license and the whites undoubtedly have grown more tolerant and less likely to resort to extreme measures of punishment for black offenders. The figures are encouraging, to say the least, and if lynchings continue to diminish at the same proportionate rate they will soon be a matter of history.

### LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS IN 1917.

According to information furnished The Independent by the Division of Record and Research of Tuskegee Institute, we are able to hand out the following information as to the number of lynchings occurring during the first six months in 1917, as compared with the number during the first six months of 1915 and 1916.

During the first six months of the current year, there occurred in America, 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than occurred during the first six months in 1916, there being 25 during that time, and 20 less than occurred in the first six months of 1915, there being 34 lynchings accredited to these months. In ten instances during the current year, through the bravery of the officers, mobs were prevented from lynching intended victims.

Of the 14 lynchings this year, 13 were Negroes and 1 white. Four of these put to death (1 white and 3 blacks), were charged with the crime of rape. One put to death was a Negro woman, reported to have been of

unsound mind, who, in resisting arrest, wounded an officer of the law. She was lynched.

While the number of victims lynched was considerably less this year, there is great room for improvement in this country. America is not in a position to protest against outrages in Belgium, Ireland and other foreign countries, so long as citizens are murdered at home by lynching bees and mobs upon the slightest provocation, without interference on the part of our National government. Burning Negroes at the stake in America is a kind of pastime, and the National

The Houston Chronicle of  
July 3, 1917

## What Some People

### Record of Lynchings.

To the Editor of The Chronicle:

I send you the following, relative to lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find, according to the records kept by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that in this period there have been 14 lynchings. This is 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916 and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915. In 10 instances, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Of those lynched, 13 were negroes and 1 was white. Four of those put to death, 1 white and 3 negroes, were charged with the crime of rape. One of those put to death was a negro woman, reported to have been of unsound mind, who in resisting arrest wounded an officer of the law.

I gather from reading negro newspapers and from other sources, that in spite of the notable decrease in the number of victims of mob violence for the six months the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake near Memphis has increased among negroes the fear of lynchings and accelerated their migration to the North. Yours very truly,

Robert R. Moton,  
Principal Tuskegee Institute.  
MERIDEN CONN JOURNAL  
JULY 3, 1917

Tuskegee, Ala.—There were eleven fewer lynchings in the six months ending June 30 than in that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen, as against twenty-five for the same period last year.



# THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1917.

There were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were Negroes and 2 were whites. (Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape.)

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the Negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attaching an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 3; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

JACKSONVILLE FLA. NEWS

JULY 3, 1917

## FEWER LYNCHINGS.

According to figures compiled by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, the great Booker T. Washington training school for negroes, lynchings for the first six months of the year totaled 14 throughout the country, 11 less than the number, 25, for the first six months of 1916, and 20 less than the number, 34, for the first six months of 1915.

In other words, lynchings for the first six months of 1917 were 44 per cent less than the number for the same period of the previous year.

Needless to say, the greater number of the victims of mob violence were negroes, only one white person having been so handled during that period.

These facts are striking and clearly show that the country—we do not single out the South—is becoming more law-abiding along this line. In ten instances during the six months covered by the report, through the bravery of officers of the law and by other means, mobs were thwarted and lynchings prevented.

Lynchings are horrible and uncalled for. True, there are times when certain crimes are committed that the blood of every man revolts and cries for revenge in a summary manner. But the dealing of such justice is always to be deplored.

The South, naturally, is the scene of the greater number of lynchings than other sections, because the crimes for which such punishment is usually dealt are more frequently committed in the

South, because, naturally, of the greater number of the other race here. But the South does not stand alone in the gruesome lynching statistics. The East and the North and the West figure.

There are crimes, which it is unnecessary to mention, which cry for expiation. But there is the law, which was made for all.

"The law," some say, "what of the law we are law." But we are not law. The same law which says mob violence shall not be done is sufficient to deal justice to a criminal spelt out by a mob for "the usual crime."

The law is great and must be respected; for it stands for the protection of us all. Mob law is always wrong and has always been wrong. A mob is a body of anarchists, nothing more or less and when a mob defies the law, seizes a prisoner and deals "justice" in its own way, then that mob and every member, single and collectively, is setting itself and himself up as a separate law. Without laws civilization could not exist and it is for the observance of the laws of nations that this country is now at war with the Central Powers of Europe.

We want nothing of mobs, nor of mob talk. When a crime is committed, whatever it is, let the law work its work. Sometimes, it may be, we may feel that the law erred in dealing justice. This may be, for the law is a fabric constructed by humans and operated by humans, and all humans are subject to mistakes. But always, regardless of whatever blunders we may consider the law to make or to have made, respect the law and its officers.

Lynchings are deplorable—disgraceful—smirching. Let's have none of them.

It is the earnest desire of this and all other newspapers that the next semi-annual report from Tuskegee will show an even greater decrease in mob violence.

## LYNCHINGS

Records kept by Tuskegee Institute show a notable decrease of the number of lynchings during the first six months of 1917, compared with the same period of last year. While in 1916 the number was 25 up to the end of June, this year there have been but 14, or 11 less. In 1915, when there were 34 lynchings in the period noted. Of the lynchings this year, 13 of the victims were negroes and one was a white.

It is said, however, that even the decrease in the number of lynchings has not served to allay the fears of negroes that they may be subjected to violent treatment in the South. The particular thing to augment this fear is declared to be the horrors connected with the recent burning at the stake

near Memphis, Tenn. Further, the increased fear is said to have been a prime factor in causing the migration of negroes to the North.

Much doubt must exist as to the soundness of this theory, as accounting in any great degree for the northward migration. There can be little doubt, however, that the treatment the negro has received in the South during many years, made many of the race more responsive to the lure of higher wages and the promise of better living conditions in the North.

It must be, however, with a shock of utter dismay, that the negro finds, through the experience of his race in East St. Louis, the truth in the maxim that, the oftener you change, the more certain you are to find the same thing.

The northern exodus appears to have transferred the negro problem, but to changed it in no wise whatever.

## LYNCHING STATISTICS.

Raping or alleged raping of white women by Negroes is what have rise to the thought of lynching who comes so nearly being an institution in this country. It took form, and it had to be fought as a visible, corporeal, tangible something that obsessed the land, rather than a mere incident of our civil life. It hovers over the race very much in the same sense that the German zeppelins and airplanes hover over London; not an every day affair, but a perpetual menace just the same. By the account of last year appearing elsewhere in this issue it will be seen that twelve persons were lynched on the original charge, raping or the attempt at raping. While this number is large in view of the nature of the charge, admitting it to be true, yet it will be seen that the supposed necessity for lynching is without much foundation.

According to Mr. Works, of Tuskegee, the charges were various, many of them trifling when viewed in relation to the mob necessity. They were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing of officers of the law, 2; for not getting out of the road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's words, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and number in each state were

as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

DETOIT MICH FREE PRESS JANUARY 4, 1918

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

### LYNCH RECORD OF 1917.

To the Editor: I send you the following relative to lynchings for the year. I find from the records kept by the Division of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Monroe N. Work, in charge, that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and 2 were whites. Thirty-seven were males and 1 female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape.

The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder, 1; fomenting strikes, 1.

The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with woman, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

R. R. MOTON, Tuskegee Institute, Ark.  
CANNONBURG PA NOTES JANUARY 4, 1918

### LYNCHINGS IN 1917

Tuskegee Institute has issued an annual summary of lynchings for last year. In 1917 mobs took the lives of 38 persons, 17 fewer than in 1916. Thirty-six were Negroes and two whites. One woman was lynched, as against three in the preceding year. Lynchings occurred in two Northern states, one each in Montana and Wyoming, while Texas last year equalled Georgia's record, each state being disgraced with six mob murders.

It will be deduced from the figures given above that American savagery has abated somewhat, but mere numbers do not tell the whole story. The incentives to lynchings in the of

fenses alleged against victims of mobs, as reported by the Tuskegee Division of Records and Research, were less grave on the whole last year than in 1916. The chief offense, attacks on women, was avenged in 12 instances in each year. That is blot enough on our boasted civilization, but democracy is shamed by the further record: Two persons were lynched for "not getting out of the road and being insolent"; two for "disputing white man's word"; one for "stealing a coat"; one for "accidentally killing a child by running automobile over it"; one for "vagrancy"; one for "writing insolent letter." In all of the minor cases cited the victims were Negroes. Would it be unfair to group them all under one heading and bluntly acknowledge these eight persons were killed by mobs for nothing but that they were black. Probably race prejudice is accountable for a majority of all the lynchings. It is something to ponder in these times when we are waging war for justice, which recognizes no distinctions of race.—Gazette Times

### 38 PERSONS LYNCHED

IN THE COUNTRY DURING YEAR

PHILA PA FIVE LEDGER

JANUARY 3, 1918

Less Than One-third of victims of

Mob Law Were Accused of

"Unusual Crime"

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Jan

3.—The record of lynchings for 1917 compiled by the division of records of the institute was announced as follows:

"There were thirty-eight persons lynched in 1917, of whom thirty-six were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve, or a little less than one-third, of those put to death were charged with rape or attempted rape."

"The offenses charged against the whites lynched were: Rape and murder 1; fomenting strikes, 1."

"The offenses charged against the negroes were: Attempted rape, 5; rape, 6; murder, 3; killing officer of the law, 2; for not getting out of road and being insolent, 2; attacking women, 2; disputing white men's word, 2; entering woman's room, 2; wounding officer of the law, 1; molesting women, 1; stealing coat, 1; intimacy with women, 1; killing man in altercation, 1; accidentally killing child by running automobile over it, 1; vagrancy, 1; wounding and robbing a man, 1; attacking an officer of the law, 1; opposition to war draft, 1; insulting girls, 1; writing insolent letter, 1."

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# Lynchings-1917

Reports only Sent Press 328

PITTSBURG PA GAZETTE TIMES  
JANUARY 3, 1918

## Lynchings in 1917.

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It will be deduced from the figures given above that American savagery has abated somewhat, but mere numbers do not tell the whole story. The incitements to lynchings in the offenses alleged against victims of mobs, as reported by the Tuskegee Division of Records and Research, were less grave on the whole last year than in 1916. The chief offense attacks on women, was avenged in 12 instances in each year. That is blot enough on our boasted civilization, but democracy is shamed by the further record: Two persons were lynched for "not getting out of road and being insolent"; two for "disputing white man's word"; one for "stealing a coat"; one for "accidentally killing a child by running automobile over it"; one for "vagrancy"; one for "writing insolent letter". In all of the minor cases cited the victims were Negroes. Would it be unfair to group them all under one heading and bluntly acknowledge these eight persons were killed by mobs for nothing but that they were black. Probably "race prejudice" is accountable for a majority of all the lynchings. It is something to ponder in these times when we are waging war for justice, which recognizes no distinctions of race.

WILKINSON O DISPATCH  
JULY 2, 1917

## Eleven Fewer Lynchings.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., JULY 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30, than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered 14 as against 25 for the same period last year. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributes much of the decrease to the migration North to the fear of lynchings.

ALBANY N Y KNICKERBOCKER PRESS  
JANUARY 3, 1918

## DRIFT OF OPINION

### A RAY OF HOPE IN LYNCHING RECORDS.

New York World.

The records of Tuskegee Institute show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States last year, of whom thirty-six were negroes. Twenty-six of the number, or more than two-thirds, were put to death for offenses other than the "usual crime," and all but two of the lynchings occurred in southern states.

The figures thus continue the stigma on the south of employing lynching as an indiscriminate punishment for negro crimes and misdemeanors and not merely for the protection of womanhood. In at least one-third of the cases where the death penalty was inflicted by mobs the offense was one of a police court character only.

At the same time, the evil record compares favorably with the worse one for 1916, when fifty-four persons were lynched, of whom fifty were negroes. It is distinctly better than that for 1915, when fifty-four negroes and thirteen whites were put to death by mobs; it is an improvement on the record for 1914, when fifty-two were lynched.

As to whether the decrease of lynchings for one year is due only to chance or reflects influences working toward a permanent improvement remains to be discovered. But it has the merit of being a less discouraging exhibit of the cheapness of negro life under mob law.

BRITTON W VA SENTINEL  
JANUARY 4, 1918

## LYNCHING IN 1917

Tuskegee Institute has issued its annual summary of lynchings for last year. In 1917 mobs took the lives of 38 persons, 17 fewer than in 1916. Thirty-six were negroes and two whites. One woman was lynched as against three in the preceding year. Lynching occurred in two Northern states, one each in Montana and Wyoming, while Texas last year equalled Georgia's record, each state being disgraced with six mob murders.

It will be deduced from the figures given above that American savagery has abated somewhat, but mere numbers do not tell the whole story. The incitements to lynchings in the offenses alleged against victims of mobs, as reported by the Tuskegee Division of Records and Research

were less grave on the whole last year than in 1916. The chief offense attacks on women, was avenged in 12 instances in each year. That is blot enough on our boasted citizenship but democracy is shamed by the further record: Two persons were lynched for "not getting out of the road and being insolent"; two for "disputing white man's word"; one for "stealing a coat"; one for "accidentally killing a child by running automobile over it"; and for "vagrancy one for "writing insolent letter". In all of the minor cases cited the victims were negroes. Would it be unfair to group them all under one heading and bluntly acknowledge these eight persons were killed by mobs for nothing but that they were black. Probably race prejudice is accountable for a majority of all the lynchings. It is something to ponder in these times when we are waging war for justice, which recognizes no distinctions of race.

## SPRINGFIELD MASS UNION JANUARY 2, 1918

The lynching record for 1917, as compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, shows that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States last year, but two of them Negroes and one of the latter a woman, were victims of this form of mob law. Twelve of the thirty-eight, including one white man, were charged with criminal assaults or attempted assaults on women. The other white man was lynched for fomenting strikes. Georgia, in keeping with its evil reputation of recent years in this regard, and Texas led the list with six lynching each, and Louisiana was close behind with five. Alabama and Arkansas had four lynchings, Tennessee three, Kentucky two, and Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia and Wyoming one apiece. Among the causes for which some of the Negroes were put to death by mobs were disputing a white man's word, not getting out of the road and being insolent, stealing a coat, accidentally killing a child by running over it with an automobile, vagrancy, insulting girls and writing an insolent letter. It is a discreditable record of lawlessness and disorder under the pretext of suppressing crime, although not so bad as in some other recent years. In fact, the lynchings have shown a steady falling off in the last few years, and it may well be hoped that the time is not far distant when this form of mob violence will have passed away forever.

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA TIMES  
JULY 2, 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven fewer lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the first six months of 1916, according to records compiled by Monroe N. Work, head of the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. There were fourteen lynchings the first six months this year, against twenty-five for the corresponding period of the year before. Of those lynched, thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a woman.

N Y C WORLD

JULY 31, 1917

## 38 LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1917.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year.

All except two were negroes and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

BOSTON MASS DAILY GLOBE  
JANUARY 2, 1918

Lynching Record for 1917

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan 1—Records kept by the division of records and research of Tuskegee Institute show that there were 38 persons lynched in 1917, of whom 36 were negroes and two were whites. Thirty-seven were males and one female. Twelve or a little less than one-third of those put to death, were charged with rape or attempted rape. The States in which lynchings occurred and number in each State were as follows: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 3; Texas, 6; Virginia, 1; Wyoming, 1.

CONKERS N Y HERALD  
DECEMBER 31, 1917

## 38 LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1917.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31st.—Records made public by R. R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute, show that 38 persons were lynched in the United States this year.

All except two were negroes and one of the latter was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern states, Georgia and Texas having six each. Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

WILKINSON O DISPATCH  
JULY 3, 1917

## LYNCHING RECORD CUT DOWN

Fewer In Half Year Ending June 30 Than Previous Similar Period.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were 11 less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during the corresponding period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, the number being 14, against 25. Thirteen were negroes and one a white man. One was a negro woman. Robert Moton, principal of Tuskegee, attributed much of the negro migration North to the fear of lynchings.

PHILA PA PUBLIC LEADER  
DECEMBER 21, 1917 328

## 38 LYNCHED THIS YEAR

Tuskegee Institute's Head Shows All but Two Were Negroes

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30.—Records made public last night by R. R. Moton, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that thirty-eight persons were lynched in the United States this year. All except two were negroes, and of those one was a woman. One lynching occurred in Montana and all the others were in Southern States, Georgia and Texas having six each.

Attacks on white women were given as the cause in sixteen instances.

BROOKLYN N Y CITIZEN

## CONTEMPORARY COMMENT.

According to statistics furnished by Tuskegee Institute, there were only fourteen lynchings in the Southern States during the first six months of this year, or eleven less than in the first six months of 1916 and twenty less than in the same period of 1915. The high cost of rope having a reformatory effect on our southern friends.—Albany Argus.

CHICAGO ILL TRIBUNE  
JULY 3, 1917

## Lynching Bees on Wane, Negro Statistics Shows

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—There were eleven less lynchings during the six months ending June 30 than during that period last year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute. They numbered fourteen, as against twenty-five for the same period last year.

328



## 54 LYNCHINGS IN 1916.

According to Monroe Work, there were 54 lynchings during 1916. There were 50 colored and 4 whites lynched during 1916. During 1915 there 54 colored and 13 whites. This shows there were 4 less colored and 13 less whites than were lynched in 1915. The lynchings by States were as follows: Alabama 14, Kansas 1, Arkansas 4, Florida 8, Georgia 14, Kentucky 2, Louisiana 2, Mississippi 1, North Carolina 2, Oklahoma 4, South Carolina 1, Tennessee 4, Texas 9.

*The search light*  
3/1/16  
We are glad to announce that this matter is on the decrease. If present conditions do not decrease lynchings then there is but little hope for the future of our civilization on this horrible crime. Surely there is a better day coming for the helpless and defenseless of our people. Just wait on the Lord and He will bring it to pass. Let all the oppressed live on their knees and constantly ask for deliverance. A brighter era of love, peace, and deliverance will surely come. Every thing points to more harmony, more helpful co-operation along all lines for the uplift of all the helpless of all classes than at any period since the colored man's emancipation in 1863. When Lincoln's edict sounded the death knell to human bondage in this country. No country is free until all classes are secure in their civil and inalienable rights to be protected in all that makes a free and God fearing people. We stand today on the threshold of world wide changes in the betterment of the weak and oppressed.



# **HOLD HEARING ON EXTRADITION OF ACCUSED NEGRO**

From

Address:

Date

News

MACO, TEXAS

JAN 30 1917

BOSTON MASS RECORD  
OCTOBER 15, 1917

## **Colored Man Wanted in South Says He Is Victim of "Frame-Up"**

Claiming that he is the victim of a political "frameup" at Charleston, S. C., John Johnson, a negro and former policeman of that city, now fighting extradition on charges of a serious nature, was given a private hearing at the Charles st. jail today by Asst. Dist. Atty. Brown, representing the office of Atty. Gen. Atwill.

Chief of Police Sparks and Inspector Chapman of Charleston attended the hearing, armed with an indictment warrant issued in Charleston for the arrest of Johnson. The case has created intense interest among negroes throughout the country.

Although the warrant charges that Johnson committed a serious assault upon a white girl of Charleston in December, 1916, the man told a story today in which he denied the truth of the charge.

He claimed that the warrant for his arrest was not issued until the election of the new district attorney of Charleston named Littlepage, who was a political enemy and had sworn to "get him" if elected.

Johnson not only denies the charge against him, but says that an investigation made at the time of the alleged offense exonerated him of any blame and that he lived in Charleston for nearly a year afterward without any trouble. Upon the election of Littlepage, he asserts, action was begun against him. Johnson was prominent politically in Charleston and opposed Littlepage.

The defendant says that he came North and after his arrival in Boston he was arrested in a lunch room on Lenox st. by Inspector Walker and Concannon of police headquarters.

He testified that on Oct. 4 of this year Sparks and Chapman came to his cell at the Charles st. jail and made threats against him. These threats were repeated next day in the presence of jail officials, who testified today.

A public hearing was held at the State House this afternoon.

## **NEGRO COLLEGE IS SUED FOR \$50,000**

**GEORGE FRYER VS. PAUL QUINN  
IN SEVENTY-FOURTH COURT.**

A suit for \$50,000 damages has been started in the Seventy-fourth district court by George Fryer vs. Paul Quinn M. E. college.

According to the allegation, the suit grew out of the alleged murder of Mrs. Lucy Fryer, wife of the plaintiff, on May 13 of last year.

It is alleged that a college paper issued by the negro college published a story stating that George Fryer had been arrested by the county officers, lodged in jail and had confessed to murdering his wife.

On the city hall square on May 15 last Jessie Washington, negro, was burned to death by a mob.

The alleged murder occurred at Robinsonville.

### **SHERIFF SHOT.**

MACON, GA., March 24—Sheriff John McCants, of Taylor County was shot twice in the back and probably fatally wounded following a raid by police and sheriff's posse on a gambling game in Butler last tonight. Sheriff McCants was brought to a Macon hospital shortly after midnight. His condition is said to be serious. Six negroes have been arrested and Sheriff McCants' friends are said to be threatening to lynch the one suspected of the shooting.

## **NEGRO SAVED FROM MOB IS ACQUITTED BY JURY**

**Keith Accused of Murdering  
Sheriff Moreland—Five Other  
Negroes Lynched.**

*Continued 2-7-17*

Sylvester, Ga., February 6.—(Special.)—Jim Keith, a negro, who, charged with the murder of Sheriff Moreland, of Lee county, on December 18, 1915, was saved by Worth county officials from a mob which lynched five other negroes for the crime, was acquitted in superior court here last night.

At his first trial here a year ago Keith was convicted on the theory that he was in the conspiracy which

sheriff and was given a life term. Further evidence, however, has led to the general belief that Mozelle Lake, a negro who escaped, is the murderer.

Keith, in January of 1916, was removed from the Worth county jail and carried to a place of safety shortly before a mob, supposedly from Lee county, took five negroes suspected of complicity in the murder of Sheriff Moreland from jail, carried them to Starkesville, in Lee county, and there lynched them.



# MILITIA CALLED TO SUPPRESS RIOT

*Amsterdam News*  
Clash Narrowly Averted as Whites Gather to Storm Jail and  
Lynch Colored Prisoners and Blacks Arm, as at  
Muskogee, to Give Men Protection

6/4/17

Canton, Miss., June 25.—Following a fight between a colored and a white man, in which the colored man was locked up charged with assault, a mob, composed of young ruffians and the usual leavening of "leading citizens," gathered before the jail in an attempt to take the prisoner out and work their will on him. An opposing crowd of armed colored men advanced to the scene and expressed their intention of standing guard over the jail and seeing that justice was done. A clash between the two forces seemed inevitable and the sheriff sent a hurry call to Jackson for troops.

Through the requisition for troops had to go through Washington, a force of 108 arrived in a few hours and took control of the situation, successfully dispersing the crowd. The troops tonight were guarding the jail to prevent any further attempts at disorder. The situation has quieted down and no further trouble is expected.

**Trouble Starts with Fight.**  
The trouble started with a fight between George Bass, colored, and Oscar Gober, white; both mill hands. In the fracas Gober was struck with a brick. Officers were called to the scene and Bass was arrested.

A mob formed when he was taken to the court house this morning, which threatened to lynch the prisoner. The sheriff decided it was best to postpone the trial and kept the colored man in his office until the noon hour, when he caught the crowd napping and rushed the prisoner to the jail. In the meantime, he had sent in a hurry call for troops.

**NEGRO LEGALLY HANG  
FOR MURDER OF WOM**

**Albert Sanders Must Also Die  
for Killing Young**

*Mrs. Hess.*  
6/4/17

Mobile, Ala., August 3.—Fisher Brooks, a negro taxi driver, convicted

from the first.

Witnesses testified that Sanders and Brooks met in front of a negro moving picture theater on the evening of Mrs. Hess' arrival and the prosecution contended that a plot to rob her of a large sum Sanders thought she had in her purse was concocted then. Brooks, in his first confession, said that after calling for Mrs. Hess he picked up Sanders near the station and continued north along a lonely road. After a time Mrs. Hess began to scream and Brooks said he and Sanders became frightened, stopped the car and cut the woman's throat. They then threw the body into the creek. In his later confession Brooks said he alone was guilty of the murder and expressed the hope that Sanders would not be hanged.

**Sanders Innocent, Says Brooks.**

Brooks made a dying statement at 2 o'clock this morning declaring that "nobody but God and my wife knew about the murder," and saying that if Albert Sanders, now under sentence of death, is hanged an innocent man will be killed.

Brooks described how he killed Mrs. Hess. After taking her just outside the city limits, he said, "I got her money and told her to get out on the ground, and she got out. She laid down and I cut her twice and she hollered twice. I put my finger in her mouth to keep her from hollering and she bit me on the finger and I cut her twice—I kept the knife in her."

After telling how he disposed of the body, he said he didn't leave Mobile "because I thought I would get out of it like I did at Port Arthur, Texas. I stayed there and got out of that crime. No one else was in this crime at all but me."

Brooks said his real name was Mose Hapoon and that he was born in Monroe, La. He gave his age as 27.

**RACE NEWS OF THE WEEK.**

**LABOR MIGRATION CONTINUES  
DESPITE E. ST. LOUIS—9  
WHITES AND 38 COLORED ADMITTED  
KILLED AT THE MAS-**

*The Guardian, 8/11/17*  
**SACRE**

Alabama.  
Despite recent troubles in East St. Louis during the race riots here many letters that have come back to Mobile and other southern cities from those who left, another exodus of Negroes, this time to Pittsburg, is planned. Labor agents have signed up more than 100.

The exodus is made up of men, women and children.

**Colorado.**  
Colorado is to have a Colored battalion. The organization has received its uniform and other equipment and is at camp at the rifle range near Golden. Maj. Campbell is in command.

**Illinois.**  
Charged with being implicated in the shooting and killing of two Negroes during the riots, Sergt. Con Meehan and Policeman James O'Brien and Albert H. Wilson were arrested by Coroner C. C. Renner of E. St. Louis.

The three men were also suspended indefinitely by the police board. Two more white men have died, bringing the total of white men killed up to nine. The number of Negroes known to have been killed is 38.

Robert Murray, 26, and Steben Hoskins, 18, both wounded during the

riots, have recently died.

"Somebody must hang for those riots and it appears some hangings are due in St. Claire County," declared Atty.-Gen. Brundage.

Charged with starting the fires which destroyed over six blocks of Negro residences during the rioting last week, Christ Morihotis, 19, has been arrested.

The 8th Regiment, Illinois Infantry, Co. Franklin A. Denison, has mobilized with the other Illinois National Guard troops on July 25, by orders of President Wilson. This regiment is the only one of its kind in the United States with members of the race from colonel to private.

**JUDGE WHO HALTED A MOB  
ORDERS MAN TO DEATH**

Charlottesville, Va., April 18.—Robert Jones, the Negro who killed Special Officer Meredith A. Thompson here on Thursday night, was found guilty of murder in the first degree tonight and sentenced to death by the judge who on Monday night defended the accused Negroes from an angry mob at the jail door. Hamilton Crosby, held as accomplice in the crime, will go to trial tomorrow against evidence said to be even stronger than that which convicted Jones.

The crowd of spectators filling the Corporation Court, crowding the doors and surrounding the building, attempted no demonstration during the day. Judge A. D. Dabney had taken the precaution of clearing the courtroom and admitting spectators again, one by one, each being searched by a member of the Monticello Guards at the entrance. None was found armed. The guard, however, remained at its posts in the courtroom, while the Staunton soldiers watched the crowds on the court green.

The jury had been out only twenty-three minutes, when it returned, at 3:25 o'clock tonight and announced that it had found the prisoner guilty. The penalty was fixed at death.

Seated near the murdered man's widow, who held in her lap her baby girl, Robert Jones heard his sentence without emotion. He appeared calmly indifferent.

*Richmond Planet*  
**NEGRO DENIES THAT HE KILLED  
OFFICER. 4/28/17.**

In his testimony during the afternoon the Negro had told his story of his struggle to steal the ham for which he will pay with his life. On the stand the Negro said that as he reached for the ham a man stepped toward him and ordered him to throw up his hands. As the man approached, said Jones, he lunged forward, reached for the pistol and was shot in the leg. Then Crosby, said Jones, flung himself upon the police officer, and Jones ran. As he fled, said Jones, he heard another shot. He swore that he never did get the officer's pistol in his own hand, and that he had no weapon of any kind.

Dr. W. D. Macon, health officer of the city, who was present at Thompson's autopsy, testified to the physical condition of the Negro's victim.

Found guilty, Jones was returned to jail under a strong military guard. Crosby's trial begins tomorrow morning. His conviction is thought to be even more certain than Jones's, for Crosby will have to face the alleged fact that he made a confession to Chief of Police Damron in the presence of witnesses. Crosby is quoted as admitting that he assailed the officer with a stone.

**MURRAY, KY., IN  
LIMELIGHT AGAIN**

Colored Men Shoot White Soldiers.

*Louisville News, 4/28/17*

Murray, Ky., April 24.—One would think that after the attempted lynching of Lube Martin and the disgraceful treatment of Judge Bush a few months ago, this burg would be quiet for a while. But it jumped back into the limelight Sunday night when two soldiers, members of the Third Regiment Kentucky Guards were shot in or near Galen Grogan's grocery. Despite his name Grogan is a colored man and a highly respected colored man, well-to-do and proprietor of the grocery. He and Artie Wall have been arrested in connection with the trouble. The cause of the shooting has not been learned but the unruly conduct of the soldiers in this town contrasted with Mr. Grogan's reputation as a law-abiding citizen leads your correspondent to believe the soldiers were in the wrong.

**Negroes Held  
Here Indicted  
By Grand Jury**

(Special To The Advertiser)

MOBILE, ALA., June 16.—Fisher Brooks and Albert Sanders were indicted by the Mobile county grand jury which adjourned today on the charge of murdering Mrs. Julia May Hess May 21 and throwing the body in Chickasabogue. She was the wife of Roy C. Hess a locomotive engineer residing at Fulton Ala. The indicted men are now being held in the Montgomery county jail for safe keeping. They will be brought here for trial.

Mrs. Hess was traveling from Fulton to Starke, Florida, and had stopped over here to change trains. She entered a taxicab at 2 o'clock on the morning of May 1 and the next time she was heard from her body was taken out of the creek. Her throat had been cut.



# THE CHICAGO DEFENDER REPORT OF LYNCHING IN GEORGIA A BIG FAKE

NO FACTS TO CONFIRM LYNCHING OF NEGRO AND KILLING OF SIX WHITE MEN BY HER HUSBAND

## One Other Misleading Fact About State

Yellow Journalism of This Sort Does Negro No Good and Shows Irresponsible Nature of Some Negro Newspapers

*The Savannah Tribune 2/17/17*

In the Chicago Defender of February 3d there appeared an article purporting to come from Athens, Ga., which stated that a Negro woman had been lynched near that city by a party of white men because she slapped a little white boy who had been in a quarrel with her child and that the woman's husband killed six members of the mob and then made his escape. The matter has been thoroughly investigated by The Tribune and we have not been able to secure one scintilla of evidence confirming the affair. In fact, we have found that the relationship existing between the races in and around Athens is very cordial and that there has never been a lynching in Clark county, of which Athens is the county seat.

Several of the best known and most reliably informed men there were shown the Chicago Defender's statement of the lynching and all of them expressed surprise, stating that there was no truth in it. From what source The Defender received this bit of startling news The Tribune does not know, but we are aware of the fact that it is not true.

Another misleading statement of conditions in this state appeared in this paper about a month ago. It was to the effect that this city, Savannah, three white women were killed on a street car by an explosion of the motorman's control box, and, as a result, the seating arrangement of the races here has been changed, the Negroes being given the front part of the cars and the whites the rear. We remember well the unfortunate killing of the three white women by an explosion on a Battery Park car during the early part of September, but we have no knowledge of any change in the seating arrangement of this city. As a matter of fact, there has been no change made.

News items of this nature give false impressions, do the Negro no good and are a reflection upon the reliability of our newspapers. It would be far better for the Chicago Defender to ascertain the truthfulness of news items before giving them out to the public.

The false Athens' news item, published by the white druggists of the city is Dr. Defender, was as follows:

TOOK REVENGE FOR DEATH OF WIFE

Mob Hung Her to Tree, but He Killed Six and Made His Getaway

"Athens, Ga., Feb. 2.—Two little boys (one white) got to fighting in a town a few miles from here and the result was that the mother of the Race boy slapped the white one. Twelve men formed a mob and took her to the outskirts of the city and lynched her. They hung her body to a tree and then went to where her husband was working and asked him to help them cut down a cow which was too heavy for them. He went and was dumfounded when he saw that it was his wife. He humbly begged of them to allow him to go home and get a sheet to wrap it around her. They consented. While in the house he put his Winchester under the sheet and came back. They waited to watch him, but he had beat them to it. Approaching them, he opened fire, killing six. Before they could get to him he made his escape. The Associated Press never said anything about the matter.

COLORED EDITOR PRINTS FALSE REPORT.

Athens, Ga., Feb. 2.—Two little boys (one white) got to fighting in a town a few miles from here and the result was that the mother of the Race boy slapped the white one. Twelve men formed a mob and took her to the outskirts of the city and lynched her. They hung her body to a tree and then went to where her husband was working and asked him to come and help them cut down a cow which was too heavy for them. He went and was dumfounded when he saw that it was his wife. He humbly begged of them to allow him to go home and get a sheet to wrap it around her. They consented. While in the house he put his Winchester under the sheet and came back. They waited to watch him, but he had beat them to it. Approaching them, he opened fire, killing six. Before they could get to him he made his escape. The Associated Press never said anything about the matter. 2-3-17

The above new item (?) was clipped from The Chicago Defender. Since its publication the Independent

has made a strenuous effort to find out the truth—whether any such a crime was committed in Georgia or not. Our investigation has developed that no such crime has been committed in Georgia. In the community where the crime is supposed to have been committed, nobody heard of it until it was seen in The Defender. And The Independent announces to the world the truth of the whole matter, that the item is purely a fabrication made out of the whole cloth. The Independent is opposed to crime, and condemns our state in common with every others states where lynching is permitted and goes unpunished, but we feel like standing up in open meeting and defending our state in spite of what other people say about us, against every lie and slander.

The Defender's article is a base and malicious misrepresentation of the truth, and it is up to The Defender to establish the proof of its publication or correct it in its columns. It is the duty of a newspaper to give the news, regardless of whom it pleases or offends. But the news must be the truth, and any item published as a news item which is not based upon the truth is no news at all.

MOB THREATENS LIFE OF KENTUCKY JUDGE  
Consul  
For Postponing Negro's Trial  
State's Attorney Also Menaced—Judge Yields.

Paducah, Ky., January 10.—The lives of Circuit Judge Charles Bush and Commonwealth's Attorney Denny Smith were threatened by a mob at Murray, Ky., today when the case of Lube Martin, a negro, charged with killing Guthrie Duiguid, a white man, was continued until the next term of court, according to reports reaching here.

When those persons in the court room learned of the continuance granted Martin and of his removal to Hopkinsville, according to the reports reaching here, a large crowd immediately surrounded the judge and commonwealth's attorney, demanding that the negro be brought back for trial immediately, threatening if this was not done, to lynch both. Attorneys on both sides are said to have agreed, in the face of the situation which threatened, to have the negro brought back here in the morning and placed on trial.

TOOK REVENGE FOR DEATH OF HIS WIFE  
The Chicago Defender

Mob Hung Her to Tree, but He Killed Six and Made His Getaway

Athens, Ga., Feb. 2.—Two little boys (one white) got to fighting in a town a few miles from here and the result was that the mother of the Race boy slapped the white one. Twelve men formed a mob and took her to the outskirts of the city and lynched her. They hung her body to a tree and then went to where her husband was working and asked him to come and help them cut down a cow which was too heavy for them. He went and was dumfounded when he saw that it was his wife. He humbly begged of them to allow him to go home and get a sheet to wrap it around her. They consented. While in the house he put his Winchester under the sheet and came back. They waited to watch him, but he had beat them to it. Approaching them, he opened fire, killing six. Before they could get to him he made his escape. The Associated Press never said anything about the matter.

KENTUCKY GOVERNOR ESTABLISHES ORDER

MOB FOR THE THREATENS DESTRUCTION OF CIRCUIT JUDGE AND ATTORNEY  
(Associated Press)

MURRAY, KY., Jan. 11.—Re-establishment of law and order through the personal efforts of Governor Stanley of Kentucky continues here tonight after a period of excitement that a one time threatened the destruction of circuit judge Charles Bush and Commonwealth's Attorney Denny Smith at the hands of a mob which had become angered because the trial of Lube Martin, a negro charged with the murder of Guthrie Duiguid, a white man, had been deferred.

After a turbulent night, during which the mob threatened to dynamite a hotel, the refuge of the judge, Governor Stanley, accompanied by three friends, came to Murray to plead with the crowd for the preservation of order. In an address to a throng in Judge Bush's court room he declared he had come to Murray to uphold the law and protect the court "with my body if necessary." His words moved a brother of the man the negro was charged with killing to openly endorse his appeal. Later the governor moved from group to group on the streets reproving those who exhibited a tendency to flout the law, and before noon he dominated the situation and shortly thereafter left the city on a special train with the judge and the prosecutor.

TROOPS STAY RACE RIOT.  
ONE 26, 1917  
Sent From Canton, Miss., Following Siniater Rumors.

CANTON, Miss., June 26.—The arrival of a company of Mississippi guardsmen with two machine guns from Jackson prevented a race riot that looked serious.

The troops were called when whites and negroes began arming following the action of a mob in attempting to storm the jail and seize a negro charged with assaulting a white man.

PAUL QUINN COLLEGE WINS SUIT AGAINST IT FOR \$75,000.

Dallas, Texas, March 8, 1917.—On account of certain newspaper publications by the college journal, The Paul Quinn Weekly, on the burning of Jesse Washington last year by the white people at Waco, a suit was filed against the institution for \$75,000. The courts awarded the complainant a judgment of \$1.00. The editor of the College journal was given a year in jail, which term he is now serving. We are glad to have the opportunity to notify the country of the ending of this useless prosecution.

GOVERNOR ORDERS COMPLETE PROBE OF NEGRO LYNCHING

Thursday Governor Henderson, speaking of the lynching of the two Powell negroes in Lowndes county Tuesday night, said out of all fairness to Sheriff Watson, of Lowndes, it should be stated that the latter has been in a Montgomery infirmary for several days.

Wednesday the governor wrote to the sheriff asking him to make a complete investigation and thorough report, but it now appears the sheriff was absent from his county when the lynching took place. The governor will, however, demand a report of the investigation from the officer left in charge in the adjoining county to Montgomery.

NEAR LYNCHING IS RESULT OF REMARK AND NEGRO SUFFERS  
The man who was lynched

DANVILLE, VA., July 30.—A negro's remark about what his race would do to the white people after the soldiers leave Danville caused a riot call and clash here last night that almost proved serious. Three members of Company M, who heard the remark, chased the negro into a restaurant and made thrusts at him. Other negroes tried to rescue him and a fight ensued. Mayor Wooding hastened to the scene and took charge of the situation. Meanwhile Howard Grasty, who made the remark, had been seized by troopers and was being carried to the river. Non-commissioned officers prevailed upon the troops to surrender Grasty and two other negroes to the city authorities. Grasty was fined \$50 today.

MAN HUNT ABANDONED.  
Associated Press.

AMITE CITY, LA., March 26.—The sheriff's posse which since Saturday night had been searching the neighborhood of Scanlon, La., for several male members of a negro family named Rout, accused of shooting and killing Simeon Bennett, a prominent white resident of Scanlon, Saturday abandoned the hunt today according to reports received here. The negroes eluded the posse, and were captured after one had been captured and saved from lynching by the sheriff. Excitement in the neighborhood, due to the killing, was reported to have subsided.



# Lynchings - 1917

## Side Lights

### ERROR RUN TO COVER

In February, the following item purporting to be a news item, appeared in the columns of the Chicago Defender, a Negro publication, alleged to be owned and controlled by Wm. R. Hearst:

Athens, Ga., Feb. 2.—Two little boys (one white) got to fighting in a town a few miles from here and the result was that the mother of the Race had slapped the white one. Twelve men formed a mob and took her to the outskirts of the city and lynched her. They hung her body to a tree and then went to where her husband was working and asked him to come and help them cut down a cow which was too heavy for them. He went and was dumfounded when he saw that it was his wife. He humbly begged of them to allow him to go home and get a sheet to wrap it around her. They consented. While in the house he put his Winchester under the sheet and came back. They waited to watch him, but he had beat them to it. Approaching them, he opened fire, killing six. Before they could get to him he made his escape. The Associated Press never said anything about the matter.

The Independent believing the story unreasonable, set about an investigation of the facts, and the following is our finding:

Knowing the reputation of Clark County and Athens, we began to write letters to find out the truth. We could not for the life of us believe that the Associated Press was so recreant to its duty to the public as to overlook a crime so heinous and revolting as the one reported in the Chicago Defender. We addressed letters to Messrs. M. B. Morton, James Perry Davis and Dr. W. H. Harris, three colored men of the highest character, who live in Athens, and each reported that there was no truth in the writing. We then addressed the following letter to the Hon. H. J. Rowe, Editor of the Athens Daily Banner. Mr. Rowe is an ex-member of the Georgia Legislature and ex-Mayor of Athens, and one of the most representative gentlemen in his state:

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 12, 1917.  
Hon. H. J. Rowe, Editor Athens Banner,  
Athens, Ga.  
My Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing you a clipping from the Chicago Defender which

explains itself.

The Chicago Defender purports to be a Negro paper, but it is generally understood that it is owned and controlled by Wm. R. Hearst. In defending the South and the reputation of our state against outsiders, I have always pointed to Athens, the seat of the State University, as one of the cities and counties in which no lynching ever took place.

I believe this item is purely false and malicious, and was manufactured in the office of the Chicago Defender in Illinois. I want you to make such investigation of this matter as is possible to find out the truth and inform me. We cannot afford to stand for such libels. Our sins are bad enough not to have to suffer from lies and meddlers. If you will notice the comment on the bottom of this copy, you will see Rev. R. B. Dunn, of your city is referred to. This clipping is taken from the Greensboro Herald-Journal, a white paper, published in Greene County.

I am a Negro man, which you know, I lived in your county a number of years as United States Gauger. I am now engaged editing the Atlanta Independent, a Negro paper, and am General Secretary of the Negro Odd Fellows of our state. If you want to know more about me, I refer you to James Perry Davis, Dr. W. H. Harris and M. B. Morton, all of your city.

Respectfully,

B. J. DAVIS.

Mr. Rowe got busy, acknowledged receipt of my letter, after having conferred with Morton, Harris and Davis, and took up the matter with the Associated Press, asking them to make an investigation, and if such a crime was perpetrated, why they did not report. The Associated Press addressed the following communication to Mr. Rowe:

February 20, 1917.

Mr. H. J. Rowe,  
The Banner,  
Athens, Ga.  
My Dear Sir:

The Chicago Defender, a Negro publication printed a story on February 3 under the date of Albany, Ga., Feb. 2, stating that in an unnamed town a few miles from Athens, a colored woman slapped a white boy, who was fighting with her son, that twelve men formed a mob, took this wo-

man to the outskirts of the town and lynched her. According to the story, these men then went to the colored woman's husband and asked him to come out and cut down a cow which was too heavy for them to handle and when he got there he found the body of his wife. The story goes on to say that he asked permission to go and get a sheet to cover her body and this being granted, he returned to his cabin, secured a rifle which he hid under the sheet and returned to the scene. He killed six members of the mob and then made his escape.

We have had no report of any such occurrence. I would be grateful to you if you would advise me promptly as to the truth or the falsity of the story.

Sincerely yours,  
ARTHUR W. COPP,  
Supt. Sou. Div.

In reply to which, after a full investigation, Mr. Rowe sent the following telegram: "Feb. 22, 1917. Chicago Defender story absolutely false. Same publication sent representative through South some time since writing up the servant question. Story about condition with Athens' servants wilful and malicious. It is said Hearst owns Defender. I have written him. Will have story for you shortly. H. J. ROWE."

As a final report on the matter to the Independent, Mr. Rowe addressed its editor the following note:

Athens, Ga., March 4, 1917.

B. J. Davis, Esq.,  
Editor Independent,  
Atlanta, Ga.  
Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing you some letters which may be of interest to you regarding the matter of the Chicago Defender.

You will note attached a letter from the Associated Press asking me for a statement as to the authenticity of the story as published in this paper and charged by the Defender that the Associated Press would not use. After reading the Associated Press letter, you might return the same to me. You will also find a letter from Mr. Hearst's secretary.

I think it would be wise for you to use some of this matter the Defender is publishing and make such comments and criticisms of the unjustness as you see fit and send me a copy of your paper and I will reproduce it. While we may not be able to reach the people who are ignorant of this subject, still it will do no harm to let it be known, in so far as we can reach, the wilful misrepresentations this paper is making in our section.

Very truly,  
H. J. ROWE,  
Athens Banner.

And the Independent rises to remark that there is absolutely no truth in the item reported in the columns of the Defender; that no such crime has been committed; that no colored woman has slapped a white boy, and as a consequence of which no twelve men have lynched a colored woman and no Negro man has killed six white men. The whole thing is a base fabrication, manufactured out of the whole cloth and the Defender ought to correct the article. It makes no difference what its feelings are towards the South, it ought to stand up for the truth. It ought to love the truth more than it hates the South, and in the interest of truth and justice, it should admit that it published a libel upon the community and against this section.

B. J. DAVIS.

### CONTINUED JOHN JOHNSON HEARING.

The continued hearing of the John Johnson extradition case was held in Room 375 of the State House last Monday afternoon at 2 p. m. before Asst. Atty. Gen'l. Nelson P. Brown. The room in which the hearing was held was crowded to its uttermost capacity with auditors out in the corridor of curiosity and interest was high since Atty. Lewis' charges of last week. Chief of Police Sparks made a long speech in which he told his side of the story. His statement of the crime which Johnson is alleged to have committed was revolting. He said that was the reason he had made no public statement to the newspapers here, as he had been instructed by his district attorney to make no statement as it would create a public sentiment here which would be against Johnson. He said that Johnson could get as fair a trial in West Virginia as he could here.

No Colored on W. Va. Juries.

At this statement Attorney Lewis asked if there were any Colored men on the jury which indicted Johnson. Chief Sparks was not sure, but he thought not.

"Are not Colored men allowed to serve on the jury?" inquired Asst. Dist. Atty. Brown when the answer came in the negative the audience gave vent to a hearty laugh, upon which the Atty. General threatened to hold the hearing privately, unless these present refrained from any outbursts.

Lewis Sums Up.

Attorney Lewis stated he had been called up on the phone the day Chief Sparks arrived, to come to the jail at once. When there he found that the Chief had told Johnson that he should go back with us peaceably and plead guilty, you will get off with 15 years; but if you fight your extradition you will create a public sentiment against

you which will cause you to get your neck broke." Atty. Lewis said that the last statement had been sworn to by 3 officers of the jail, showed that W. Va. would lynch the man and that the spirit of lynching. "This man is not a fugitive from justice," he said "he is a fugitive from INJUSTICE," and the Governor of Mass. had the power to keep him from going back South.

Chief Sparks Orates.

Atty. Lewis of the South so aroused Chief Sparks that he grew eloquent in reply. "I feel inspired to say something in defense of my State," he shouted. "We are a God-loving and law abiding people. We do not believe in the lynch law and never have had any lynchings in Charleston that I know of. This man will be given a fair trial. We like Colored people.

In their place."

I like Colored people in their place as we like white people in their place! In the name of God; of humanity; of right and the protection of our girlhood, womanhood and motherhood we appeal to you, Mr. Attorney-General, to send this man back where justice can be administered him for his most perfidious crime!"

It was brought out that already one man had been sent to prison for 20 years; one woman and three or four men for 15 years and another man for 1 year.

Trotter's Argument.

Mr. William Monroe Trotter, editor of the Guardian, speaking for the Colored citizens made answer to Sparks.

He expressed his astonishment that Inspector Smith who represented the Boston Police Detective should side with the West Virginians as was evidenced by his unsatisfactory testimony when interrogated by the Attorney General and Attorney Lewis in regard to Chief Sparks' actions and statements at the jail. "This is the first time in the history of Massachusetts that a Southern officer, has dared come to this State and talk lynching in our jails to a prisoner," exclaimed Mr. Trotter. "The officers from West Virginia, have been unable to cite a single case where a black man has had a fair trial in his state when accused of such a crime. We have been able to cite a case where one was lynched. If carried back this man has absolutely no show of receiving justice."

REV. SHAW'S APPEAL.

Rev. M. A. N. Shaw said that the world did not regard the lynchings of the South as the actions of the South; but that whenever a lynching occurred it was put down by the world as the act of the whole United States. "Every state in the Union is considered equally guilty, as the state which commits the crime, hence Mass. should rebuke lynching states." He said that Massachusetts could not afford to send this man back as her traditions forbade it.

It was brought out at the hearing



that two officers in the Sheriff's office had substantiated the accusation which Mr. Lewis had brought against the West Virginian officers last week. One officer at the jail said that Chief Sparks had become so threatening and overbearing at the jail that he had been obliged to call up Mr. Lewis on the 'phone to come to the jail to protect his client's interests. Two officers testified to the charges Lewis had made at the first hearing.

**West Virginia Officers Said to Have Hired to Make Negro Waive Extradition.**

Boston, October 11 (by A. P.).—William H. Lewis, representing the Boston branch of the Equal Rights League, which is opposing the extradition to West Virginia of John Johnson, a negro, charged with attacking a young girl, declared at a public hearing before Assistant Attorney-General Nelson P. Brown, to-day that West Virginia officers had threatened the prisoner with bodily harm in this State unless he agreed to return willingly to stand trial. Because of the sensational nature of the charge Mr. Brown adjourned the hearing until Monday and announced that he would make a searching investigation.

"If you fight extradition you'll never reach West Virginia alive, but if you'll come with us fifteen years will be all you will get," Lewis said. Chief of Police Sparks, of Charleston, told Johnson at the jail here, according to Johnson's statement to Lewis. Sparks was at the hearing, but did not have an opportunity to deny the negro's statement, as repeated to Lewis, as at this point the hearing was postponed.

## KENTUCKY MOB ATTACKS COLORED LABORERS

(Special to the Amsterdam News.)  
Covington, Ky., May 29. Armed with rifles, knives, shotguns and clubs 500 men and women this afternoon attacked and drove colored laborers from a railroad construction camp three miles south of this city, where a colored man was accused of attacking last Saturday a 13-year-old white girl. The authorities, under the pretext of taking precautions to prevent race riots, are co-operating with the mob. Sheriff John Allison and a number of deputies reached the camp ahead of the mob, but following a demand by the leaders of the mob that the tents be removed and the black men kept off the roads at all times, gave orders to the colored laborers to move on.

At one time to-day it was feared that a mob would try to lynch a colored man suspected of attacking the girl.

## Johnny Johnson, Former Negro Patrol Driver, Arrested in Kellenberger Case

**Negro Wanted Here Caught in Boston by Police Authorities—Reward Was Offered For His Capture—Charged With Assaulting Little Girl.**

CHARLESTON, W. VA. GAZ.—OCTOBER 3, 1917.

Johnny Johnson, colored, wanted by the Charleston police for complicity in the criminal assault, committed by several negroes on Nellie Kellenberger, a little 13 year old white girl, about a year ago, is under arrest in Boston, Mass. Special Officer J. M. Chapman will leave tomorrow night for Boston with the necessary papers for Johnson's return.

The crime was one of the most atrocious ever committed in Kanawha county. Johnson, at the time, was employed as a patrol driver at police headquarters under Mayor George E. Brece's administration. He is said to have told officers details of the affair, and at their request, to have accompanied them to the scene of the crime. Seizing an opportunity, when the police were off their guard, he made his escape. Detectives, county authorities and the police have been searching for him ever since. Pictures and descriptions of the negro have been scattered broadcast over the country, but the efforts of the authorities were fruitless until a few days ago.

Chief of Police W. A. Sparkes learned through a friend of his in Boston, a few days ago, that the man was in that city. He immediately wired that the negro be apprehended and placed under arrest. Chief of Police Michael Crowley, of Boston, wired the local police department for details of the crime with which Johnson was charged, and upon receipt of an answer from Chief Sparkes, placed the man in jail.

Five negroes are serving terms, ranging from 15 to 20 years, in the State penitentiary at Moundsville for the assault. The Kellenberger girl was enticed away from her home by Hobart Alexander, a negro, who telephoned to her and misrepresented himself as another person. He met her at an isolated spot in the city and decoyed her to the home of Gertrude Leggins, in Court street. In the testimony at Alexander's trial it developed that the girl was kept there without food until the evening of the next day, and the girl was told if she made an outcry she would be murdered. The next day, according to the evidence, she was taken to the dive conducted by Mat Slaughter, in Frye street, where she was subjected to all manner of insults from a number of negro men.

Police then got an inkling of the affair, and the negroes, fearing that the Slaughter resort would be searched, moved the child to the home of Jean and Lucy S.

street, where she was located by police officers and Humane Officer Mike Ryle.

According to the police, Johnson was the first man to assault the Kellenberger girl, after Alexander took her to one of the resorts. Alexander was sentenced to 15 years for his part in the affair. Mark McDonald was sentenced to 15 years, after he plead guilty of criminal assault, and Happy Gaines, found guilty of the same charge, was given 20 years in the penitentiary. Eugene Smith, another negro, who is said to have admitted contributing to the little girl's delinquency, was sentenced to serve one year, and Mat Slaughter got 15 years for being an accessory to the crime.

As a result of her experience the little Kellenberger girl was confined to a local hospital for some time, and her father, Albert Kellenberger, filed two damage suits in the court of common pleas against Mat Slaughter's estate. The amount asked in each suit was \$10,000. The Slaughter woman is said to own considerable property in Charleston. The trial will come up soon, it is thought.

Johnson will probably arrive in Charleston, Sunday night. A reward of \$500 was offered at the time of his escape, \$250 by the State and \$250 by the county authorities. His case, it is said, will be brought to a speedy trial.

**Goldsboro Negro Escapes Mob; Speeded to Penitentiary; Convicted of Murder in Second Degree; Five Years Sentence; Think "What Might Have Been."**

*Raleigh*  
Last August in a difficulty between William Austin, colored, and Libby Jones, white, Austin shot and killed Jones in Goldsboro. As is usual in such cases feeling against Austin ran high. In fact, it became so threatening that the sheriff had to speed him to the State penitentiary in order to avoid a violent outbreak. The trial came off in the Superior Court of Wayne County last week. Austin was arraigned under an indictment for first degree murder.

The jury was white. The trial judge was white. The State solicitor was white. After an exhaustive trial Judge Oliver H. Allen instructed the jury that it could find the prisoner not guilty, or guilty of first or second degree murder, or manslaughter. The jury brought in a verdict of second degree murder and the judge sentenced Austin to five years hard labor in the State prison. That the readers of **The Independent** may see upon what evidence this verdict was rendered, and just what might have happened to Austin had he not been rushed to the penitentiary, we append below the report of the trial as sent in by the Goldsboro correspondent of the **Greensboro News** under date of Dec. 1.

(Special to Daily News.)

Goldsboro, Dec. 1. — The jury in the case of State vs. Will Austin, a Negro who was tried in Superior court in this city for murder in the first degree, in which he was charged with killing Libby Jones, a young white man, returned a verdict yesterday afternoon of second degree murder against the defendant.

Judge O. H. Allen, of Kinston, who is presiding at this term of court, deferred passing sentence till this morning when he imposed a sentence upon the defendant of five years in the State penitentiary.

Libby Jones, the murdered man, was clerking in the store of J. S. Cole Saturday night previous to the killing Sunday morning, in August, last, and Will Austin became offended at Jones over a trivial matter, and Sunday morning the two met on the street, near the Cole store, when Austin made the exclamation, "That is the damn scoundrel that insulted me last night," and then shot Jones dead. The forgoing statement was made by Faison Pollock, white, an eye witness to the tragedy.

Austin's counsel, however, introduced several witnesses, all Negroes, who swore to a different story. According to the testimony of Austin, Libby Jones, Emmett Wiggs and Faison Pollock, all white men, had him surrounded on the street near his

home; Jones struck him with his left hand and was pointing a pistol at him when he shot Jones twice. According to witnesses who corroborated Austin in part of his testimony, shortly after the shooting, Emmett Wiggs was seen to bend over the dead man and take a pistol from his body.

At the time of the killing there was a strong sentiment on the part of some people in the community in favor of lynching Austin, but prompt action on the part of Sheriff Edwards prevented such a course, and Austin was rushed to the State penitentiary, where he remained till this week.

Although Austin was on trial for first degree murder, under Judge Allen's charge, the jury could find the prisoner not guilty, or guilty of first or second degree murder, or manslaughter.

The above story carries its own comment. It presents in bold relief the situation of the Negro in North Carolina. It is not surprising, therefore, that many Negroes are escaping such conditions by accepting opportunities offered them in the North and Northwest. They will continue to go in increasing numbers. Our industrial interests will feel the strain. Our fertile fields will grow up in weeds at a time when they should be groaning under the burden of rich harvests of golden grain and the fleecy staple. Some day the State and the South will awake to the great and grave necessity of an enforcement of law against all sorts of lawlessness including the mob.

**INSULTED COLORED WOMAN**

**FORGEING STATEMENT**  
Miss Leah E. Johnson and Mrs. Charles Washington, of Westernport, sent a signed communication to the Times complaining about a white man, whose name is given, approaching a young colored school girl in an insulting manner. The communication says the aid of the courts, if necessary, will be invoked and concludes "this is to notify him and any other would-be offenders that we Negroes will protect our own."